

THE
L I V E S
Of the most REMARKABLE
C R I M I N A L S,
WHO HAVE BEEN

CONDEMN'D and EXECUTED;

EITHER FOR THE

*Highway, Street Robberies, Burglaries, Murders,
or other Capital Offences;*

From the Year 1720, to the Present Time:

Containing Particularly,

The LIVES of the famous *Jonathan Wild,*
Edward Burnworth, alias Frazier; Blewett, Berry, Dick-
son, Majoram and Higgs, for the Murder of Mr. Ball, in
St. George's-Fields; Catherine Hayes, for the Murder of her
Husband; Foster Snow, for the Murder of a Man in his
own House in Holbourn; Thomas Billings concerned with
Catherine Hayes, in the Murder of Mr. Hayes her Husband,
and Thomas Smith, a Highwayman.

VOL. II.

To which is prefix'd

A P R E F A C E, containing a General View of the *Laws*
of England, with respect to Capital Offences.

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THE PREFACE.



*I*N the Preface to my former Volume, I have endeavoured to give my Readers some Idea of the English Criminal Law, in order to shew how consistant it was with right Reason, how perfectly just, and at the same time how full of Mercy. In this, I intend to pursue the thread of that Discourse, and explain the Methods by which Justice in criminal Cases is to be sought, and the means afforded by our Law, to accuse the Guilty, and to

prevent Punishment from falling on the Innocent; in order to do this the more regularly, it is fit we begin with the apprehension of Offenders, and shew the Care of the Legislature in that Respect.

In sudden injuries, such as Assaults on the High-way, attempts to Murder or to commit any Felony whatsoever, there is no occasion for any legal Officer to secure the Person who is Guilty, but every private Man hath sufficient Authority to seize and bring such Criminal, either to a Constable or a Justice of the Peace, in order to have the Fact clearly examined, and such Course taken therein, as may conduce to the impartial distribution of Justice; and because Men are apt to be scrupulous in such Cases of Interesting themselves in matters which do not immediately concern either their Persons or their Properties, so the Law hath provided Punishments for those, who for fear of risking their private Safety or Advantage, suffer those who offend against the Publick to escape unpunish'd;

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punish'd; hence Hundreds are liable to be
 fined for suffering a Robber to escape, and
 that method of Pursuit which is called
 Hue and Cry is permitted, if no pro-
 bable way may be left for Felons to
 escape. Now a Hue and Cry is thus
 raised; the Person robbed, for ex-
 ample, goes to the Constable of the next
 Town, tells him the Case, describes
 the Felon, and the Way he went;
 whereupon the Constable, be it Day
 or Night, is to take the Assistance of
 those in his own Town, and pursue him
 according to those Directions immedi-
 ately; sending at the same Time with
 the utmost Expedition to the Neigh-
 bouring Towns, who are to make like
 Pursuit, and to send like Notice, un-
 til the Felon be found. So desirous is
 our Law of bringing offenders to Jus-
 tice, and of preserving the Roads free
 from being infested with these Vermin;
 for the better effecting of which, be-
 sides these means prescribed by the Cus-
 toms of our Ancestors: Rewards have
 been of later Times given to such as
 hazarded their own Persons in bring-

ing offenders to Justice; and of those as far as they are settled by Acts of Parliament, and thereby rendered certain and perpetual; I shall speak here tho' not of those given by Proclamation, because they being only for a stated Time; People must hereafter have been misled by our Account when that time is expired.

(1.) Highwaymen becoming some time after the Revolution, exceedingly bold and troublesome; by an Act made in the Reign of William and Mary, a Reward of forty Pounds is given for Apprehending any one in England or Wales, and Prosecuting him, so as he be convicted, which forty Pounds is to be paid by the Sheriff on a Certificate of the Judge or Justices, before whom such a Felon was convicted; and in case a Person shall be killed in endeavouring to apprehend or making pursuit after such Robbers, the said forty Pounds shall be paid to the Executors or Administrators of such Persons upon the like Certificate; moreover every Person who shall take, apprehend, or convict
such

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such a Person, shall have as a Reward the Horse, Furniture, Arms, Money or other Goods of such Robber as shall be taken with him, the Right or Title of his Majesty's Body's, Politick or Corporate. Lords of Manors, or Persons lending or letting the same to such Robber notwithstanding, excepting only the Right of those from whom such Horses, Furniture, Arms, Money or Goods were before Feloniously taken.

(2) *A like Reward of forty Pounds was by another Act in the same Reign, given to such as shall apprehend any Person convicted of any capital Crime, relating to the Coin of this Land.*

(3) *By an Act made in the Reign also of the late King William, Persons who apprehend and prosecute to Conviction, any who Feloniously steal Goods to the value of five Shillings, out of any House, Shop, Warehouse, Coach-house or Stable, or shall assist, hire or command any Person to commit such Offence; then such Person so taking as aforesaid, shall have a Certificate gratis from the Judge or Justices, expressing*

for the Parish or Place where such Felony was committed; which Certificate shall be capable of being once assigned over, and shall exempt its Proprietor or Assignee from all Parish and Ward Offices, in the Parish or Ward, wherein the Felony was committed.

(4) By an Act made in the fifth Year of the late Queen, Persons apprehending one guilty of Burglary, or Feloniously breaking into a House in the Day time, and Prosecuting to Conviction, shall receive over and above the Certificate before mention'd, the Sum of forty Pounds, as in case of apprehending an Highwayman.

(5) By an Act passed in the sixth Year of the late King, whoever shall discover, apprehend, or prosecute to Conviction without benefit of Clergy, any Person for taking Money or other Reward, directly or indirectly, to help Persons to their stolen Goods, (such Persons not having apprehended the Felon who stole the same, and brought him to Trial, and given Evidence against him) shall be entitled to a Re-

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ward of forty Pounds for every Offender so convicted, and shall have the like Certificate, and like Payment without Fee, as Persons may be entitled to for apprehending, &c. of Highwaymen.

The next Point after Offenders are once apprehended, is to carry them before a proper Magistrate, viz. a Justice of the Peace; and this leads us to say something of the Nature and Authority of that Office. My Lord Chancellor, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, the Lord High Steward of England, the Lord Marshal, and the Lord High Constable, each of the Justices of the King's-Bench, and as some say, the Lord High Treasurer of England, have as incidental to their Offices, a general Authority to keep the Peace throughout the Realm, and to award Process for their Surety thereof, and to take Recognizances for it. The Master of the Rolls hath also a like Power, either incident to his Office, or at least by Prescription. As to the ordinary Constructors or Justice of the Peace, they

they all constituted by the King's Commission, which is at present granted on the same form as was settled by the Judges in the 33d Year of Queen Elizabeth; by which they are appointed and assigned every one of them jointly and seperately to keep the King's Peace in such a County, and cause to be kept all Statutes made for the Good of the Peace and the quiet Government of the Kingdom, as well within Liberties, as without, and to punish all those who shall Offend against the said Statutes, and to cause all those to come before them, or any of them, who threaten'd any People as to the Burning their Houses, in order to compell them to find such Surety, to cause them to be kept in Prison untill they shall find it. As to the other Powers committed to these Justices, it would be too long for me to explain them, and therefore after this general Act, I shall go on to take Notice of the Manner in which the Person accused is treated, when brought before any of them.

First.

First, the Justice of Peace examines as carefully as he can into the Nature of the Offence, and the Weight there is of Evidence to persuade him of the just Ground there is for accusing the Person before him, and after he had thoroughly considered this, if the thing appear frivolous, or ill Grounded, he may discharge the Person, or if he think the Circumstances strong enough to require it, he may take Bail of the Party accused, or if the Nature of the Crime be more heinous, and the Proof direct and clear, he is bound by an Instrument under his Hand and Seal call'd a Mittimus, to commit the Offender to safe Custody, untill he be discharg'd according to Law. In carrying to Prison for any Crime whatsoever, if the Party so carried escape himself, or if he be rescued by others, he and they are guilty of a very high Misdemeanor, and in some Cases, those who assist in making the Rescue may be guilty of Felony or High-Treason, but if a Prisoner be once committed to Gaol for Felony, and afterwards break that Prison

Prison and escape, such breach of Prison is Felony, by the Statute De Frangentibus Prisonam, and shall be tried for the same as in other Cases of Felony, and suffer as such on Conviction: My Readers will find mention made of a Case of this Nature, in respect to one Roger Johnson, who some Years ago was tried for breaking the Prison of Newgate, while he remain'd a Prisoner there under a charge of Felony, and then making his Escape; but so tender is the English Law, that there appearing a probability that one Fisher (not then taken) broke down the Wall of the Prison, and that Johnson took the advantage of that Hole and made his Escape; whereupon he was found not guilty for want of due Proof, that he actually did break that Hole, through which he escaped.

The Prisoner being in safe Custody, a Bill is next to be preferred to the Grand Jury of the County, in which the Nature of the Crime is properly set forth, and they after hearing the Evidence brought by the Prosecutor to support

support the Charge, return the Bill to the Court, mark'd Billa vera or Ignoramus; in the first Case the Prisoner is required to be tried by the petit Jury of Twelve, and to abide their Verdict, or in Case of the latter, he is to be discharg'd, and free'd from that Prosecution; but the Grand Jury must find or not find the Bill entire, for a Billa vera to one part, and an Ignoramus to another, renders the whole proceedings void, and is of the same use to the Prisoner, as if they had returned an Ignoramus upon the whole.

Many without knowing the Law, have taken Occasion to be very free with its Presidents, and to treat them as things written in barbarous Latin, and in which an unreasonable, if not ridiculous nicety is sometimes required; but when this comes to be thoroughly examin'd, we shall find that their Proceedings are exactly conformable to Reason, for if Care and Circumspection be necessary in Deeds, and Writings

relating to Civil affairs; ought it not a Fortiori to be more so? where the Life, Liberty, Reputation and every thing that is dear and valuable to the Subject is at Stake, and therefore since there are Technical Words in all Sciences; surely the Law is not to be blamed for preserving certain Words, to which they have affixed particulars, and determined meanings for the expressing such Crimes as are made more or less culpable by the Legislature; thus Murdravit is absolutely necessary in an Indictment, charging the Prisoner with a Murder. Cæpit is the Term made use of in Indictments, of Larceny. Mayhemavit expresses the Fact charged in an Indictment of Maim. Felonice is absolutely necessary in all Indictments for Felony of what kind soever; Burglariter is the Latin Word, made use of to express that Breaking, which from particular Circumstances, our Law has called Burglary, and appointed certain Punishment for those who are guilty thereof. Proditorie expresses the Act in Indictments of Treason

son, and if these are not Latin Words justified by the usage of Roman Authors; the certainty which they give to those charges in which they are used, and which could not be so well expressed by Circumlocutions, is a full answer to that Objection, since the Proceedings before a Court aim not at Elegancy, but at Justice. But let us now go on to the next step taken to bring the Offender to Judgment.

The Bill having been found by the Grand-Jury, the Prisoner is brought into the Court where he is to be tried, and set to the Bar in the presence of the Judges who are to try him; then he is usually commanded to hold up his Hand, but this being only a Ceremony to make the Person known to the Court may be omitted, or the Person indicted saying I am here, will answer the same End; then the proper Officer reads the Indictment, which has been found against him in English, and when he hath so done, he demands of the Prisoner, whether he be guilty or
not

not guilty of the Fact alledged against him; to which the Prisoner answers as he thinks fit, and this answer is stiled in Plea. That tenderness which the English Law on all occasions expresses towards those who are to be brought to answer for Crimes alledg'd against them, requires that at his Arraignment, the Prisoner be totally free from any Pain or Duress, which may disturb his Thought and hinder his Liberty of pleading as he thinks fit, and for this Reason, even in Cases of High Treason. Irons are taken off during the time the Prisoner is at the Bar, where he stands without any marks of Contumely whatsoever.

But in case the Prisoner absolutely refuse to answer, or an imputinent manner delay or trifle with the Court, then he is deemed a Mute, but if he spoke not at all, nor gave any sign, by which the Court could be satisfied that he was able to Speak; then an Inquest of Officers, that is of twelve Persons who happen to be by, are to enquire
whether

whether his standing Mute arise from his Contempt of the Court, or be really an Infirmary under which he labours from the Hand of God; if it be found the latter, then the Court, as Council for the Prisoner, shall bear the Evidence with Relation to the Fact, and proceed therein as if the Prisoner had pleaded not Guilty; but if on the contrary, the Court or the Inquest shall be satisfied that the Prisoner remains a Mute, only from obstinacy, then in some Cases, Judgment shall be awarded against him, as if he had Pleaded or were found Guilty, and in others, he shall be remitted to his Penance, that is to suffer what the Law calls Pain forte and dure, which is Pressing, of which the Readers will find an Account of in the subsequent Life of Burnwoth, alias Frazier; and therefore I shall not treat farther of it here.

If from Conviction of his own Guilt, and a Consciousness that it may be fully proved against him; the Prisoner

ner plead guilty to the Indictment, it is considered as the highest species of Conviction, and as soon as its entered on Record the Court proceeds to Judgment without farther proceedings on the Indictments; but if the Prisoner plead not guilty, and put himself for Trial upon his Country, then a Jury of twelve Men are to pass upon the Defendant, and upon their Verdict he is either to be acquitted or convicted,

And with respect to this Jury, the English Law appears again more equitable than any other, perhaps in the World besides; for in this Case as the Jury comes severally to the Book to be Sworn, to try impartially between the King and the Prisoner at the Bar, according to the Evidence that is given upon the Indictment; the Prisoner is even then at Liberty to except against, or as the Law Term is to challenge twenty of the Jury peremptorily, and as many more on shewing just Cause as he thinks fit; so also if the Prisoner

Prisoner be an Alien, the Jury are to be half Aliens and half English, so tender is our Constitution, not only of the Lives of its natural born Subjects, but also of those who put themselves under its protection, that it has taken every precaution which the Wit of Man could devise to prevent prejudice, partiality or Corruption from mingling in any Degree with the Sentences pronounced upon Offenders, or in the Proceedings upon which they are founded.

Last of all we are to speak of the Evidence or Testimony, which is to be given for or against the Prisoner at the Time of his Trial; and first with respect to the Evidence offered for the Crown, if it shall appear that the Person Swearing shall gain any great and evident advantage by the Event of the Trial in which he Swears, he shall not be admitted as a good Witness against the Prisoner. Thus in the Case of Rhodes tried some Years ago on forging Letters of Attorney, for
trans-

transferring South-Sea-Stock, belonging to one Mr. Heysham; the Prosecutor Mr. Heysham was not admitted to Swear himself against the Prisoner; because in Case of Conviction. Six Thousand Pounds Stock must have been replaced to his Account. But to this tho' a general Rule, there are some exceptions, on which the Compass of this Discourse will not permit us to dwell. It is also a Rule that a Husband or Wife cannot be admitted to testify against the Prisoner; but to this also there are some exceptions, as in the Lord Audley's Case, where he was charged with holding his Lady, untill his Servant committed a Rape upon her by his Command: Also in Marriages contracted by Force against the form of the Statute, in that Case, provided the Woman tho' a Wife may be admitted as Evidence, as also in some other Cases which we have not Room to mention. Persons convicted of Perjury, Forgery, &c. are not to be admitted as legal Witnesses, but then the
Record,

Record of their Conviction must be produced at the time the objection is made, for the Court will take no notice of hear-say and common Fame in such respect. An Infidel also, that is one who believes neither the old nor new Testament, cannot be a Witness, and some other disabilities there are which being uncommon, we shall not dwell upon here; yet it's necessary to take Notice that whatever is offered as proof against the Defendant, shall be heard openly before him, that he may have an opportunity of falsifying it, if he be able, and as in all Cases, except of High-Treason, no Council is permitted to the Prisoner except in matters of Law, because every Man is supposed to be capable of defending himself, as to matters of Fact, yet the Court is always Council for the Prisoner, and never fails of instructing and informing him of what ever may conduce to his Benefit or Advantage; and if any difficult Points of Law arise, Council are assign'd him, and per-

permitted to argue in his behalf, with the same Freedom that those do, who are appointed by the Crown.

From this succinct Account of the Method in use in England, of doing Justice in criminal Cases; I flatter myself, my Readers will very clearly see how valuable those Privileges are which we enjoy as English Men, how equitable the Proceedings of our Courts of Justice, and how well constructed every part of our Constitution is for the Preservation of the Lives and Liberties of its Subjects; and if there remained room for us to compare the judicious proceedings in use here with those slight, rigorous and summary Methods, which are practised in other Countries; the value of these Blessings which we enjoy, would be considerably enhanced. But as this Preface already exceeds its intended length, we must refer this to a more proper opportunity, and conclude with putting our Readers in mind, that by the careful Perusal of this, the Preface to the first Volume,
and

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and that which will be prefixed to the following one; they will have competent Notion of the Crown Law, the Reasons on which it is founded, the Method in which it is prosecuted, and the Judgments on Criminals which are inflicted thereby; matters highly useful in themselves, as well as absolutely necessary to be known, in order to a proper understanding of the following Pages.



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THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM SPERRY,

Foot-Pad and Highway-Man.

THERE is not any thing more extraordinary in the Circumstances of those who from a Life of Rapine and Plunder come to its natural *Catastrophe*, a violent and ignominious Death, than that some of them from a Life of Piety and Religion, have on a sudden fallen into so opposite a Behaviour, and without any stumbles in the Road of Virtue, take as it were a Leap from the Precipice at once; this Malefactor *William Sperry*, was born of Parents in very low Circumstances, who afforded him and his Brother scarce any Education, 'till

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having reach'd the Age of 14 Years ; he with his younger Brother before-mentioned, were both decoyed by one of the Agents for the Plantations, to consent their being transported to *America*, where they were sold for about seven Years ; after the Expiration of which Term, *William Sperry* went to live at *Philadelphia*, the Capital of *Pensilvania*, one of the best Plantations the *English* have in *America*, and receives its Name from *William Pen* the famous *Quaker* who first planted it. Here being chiefly instigated thereto from the great Piety and unaffected Purity of Morals in which the Inhabitants of that Colony excel the greater Part of the World besides ; *Sperry* began with the utmost Industry to endeavour at retrieving his Reading, and the Master with whom he liv'd favouring his Inclinations, was at great Pains and some Expence to have him taught Writing : Yet he did not swerve in his Religion, or fall into *Quakerism* the Predominant Sex here, but went constantly to the Church belonging to the Religion by Law established in *England*, read several good Books, and addicted himself with much Zeal to the Service of God. Removing from the House of this his kind Master, to that of another Planter ; he abated nothing in his Zeal for Devotion, but went constantly from his Master's

ster's House to the Church at *West-Chester*, which was near five Miles from his home. Happening not long after to have the Advantage of going in a Trading Vessel to several Ports in *America*; he addicted himself with great Pleasure to this new Life, but his Happiness therein like all other Species of human Bliss very shortly faded; for one Morning just as the Day began to dawn, the Vessel in which he sailed, was clapped on board, and after a very short Struggle taken by the famous *Lowe* the Pyrate. *Sperry* being a brisk young Lad, *Lowe* would very fain have taken him into his Crew, but the Lad having still virtuous Principles remaining, earnestly intreated that he might be excused, which on the Score of his having discovered to *Lowe*, a mutinous Conspiracy of his Crew, the Generosity of that Pyrate was so great, that finding no Offer the could make made any Impression, he caused him to be set safe on Shore in the Night, on one of the *Leeward Islands*.

NOTWITHSTANDING, *Sperry* did not at that time comply with the Instigations of the Pyrate, yet his Mind was so much poisoned, by the Sight of what passed on board, that he from that time had an itching towards Plunder, and Desire of getting Money at an easier rate than by the Sweat of his

Brow; while these Thoughts were floating in his Head, he was entertain'd on board one of his *Majesty's Men of War*, and while he continued in the Service, saw a Pyrate Vessel taken and the Men being tried before a Court of *Admiralty* in *New-England*, were every one of them executed except Five, who manifestly appeared to have been forced into the Pyrates Service. One would have thought this would have totally eradicated all Liking to that Sort of Practice, but it seems it did not. For as soon as *Sperry* came home into *England*, and had married a Wife by which his Inclinations were chained, though he had no Ability to support her, so that falling into very great Necessities, he either tempted others, or associated himself with certain loose and abandoned young Men; for as he himself constantly declared, he was not led into evil Practices by the Persuasions of any. However it were, the Facts he committed were many, and he became the Pest of most of the Roads to the little Villages about *London*; particularly towards *Hampstead*, *Islington*, and *Mary-le-bon*; of some of which as our Papers serve we shall inform you.

S P E R R Y and four more of his Associates hearing that Gaming was very publick at *Hampstead*, and that considerable Sums were
won

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won and lost there every Night, resolved to share part of the Winnings let them light where they would; in order to this, they planted themselves in a dry Ditch on one Side of the Foot-Road just as Evening came on, intending when it was darker to venture into the Coach Road; they had hardly been at their Posts a Quarter of an Hour before two Officers came by, some of them were for attacking them, but Sperry was of a contrary Opinion; in the mean while they heard one of the Gentlemen say to the other, *there's D— M— the Gamester behind us, he has won at least sixty Guineas to Night.* Sperry and his Crew had no further Dispute whether they should rob the Gentlemen in Red or no, but resolved to wait the Coming of so rich a Prize, it was but a few Minutes before M— appeared in Sight, they immediately stepped into the Path, two before him, and two behind, and watching him to the Corner of a Hedge, the two who were behind him caught him by the Shoulders, turned him round, and hurrying him about ten Yards, pushed him into a dry Ditch, which they had no sooner done, but they all Four leaped down to him, there they began to examine his Pockets; M— thought to have talked them out of a stricter Search by pretending he had lost a great deal of Mo-

ney at Play, and had but fifty Shillings about him, which with a Silver Watch and a Chrystal Ring he seem'd very ready to deliver, and its very probable would have been accepted, if they had not had better Intelligence ; but one of the oldest of the Gang perceiving after turning out all his Pockets, that they could discover nothing of Value, he began to exert the Stile of an Highway-Man upon an Examination, and address'd the Gamester in these Terms.

NO Body but such a Rogue as you would have given Gentlemen of our Faculty so much Trouble, Sir, we have received Advice by good Hands from Bellsize, that you won sixty Guineas to Day at Play ; produce them immediately, or we shall take it for granted you have swallowed them, and in such a Case Sir, I have an Instrument ready to give us an immediate Account of the Contents of your Stomach ; M—— in a dreadful Fright put his Hand under his Arm, and from thence produced a Green Purse with a fifty Pound Bank-Note, and eighteen Guineas ; which they had no sooner taken, than tying him fast to a Hedge Stake, they ran cross the Fields in search of another Booty ; they spun out the Time being a Moon-light Night 'till past Eleven ; there being so much Company on the Road, that

that they found it impossible to attack without Danger.

As they were returning home, they heard the Noise of a Coach driving very hard, and upon turning about saw it was that of Sir *W—— B——*, himself in the Box, two Ladies of Pleasure in the Coach, and his Servants a great Way behind; one of them therefore seized the Horse on one Side, and another on the other, but Sir *W——* drove so very hard, that the Pull of the Horses brought them both to the Ground; and he at the same time encouraging them with his Voice and the Smack of his Whip, drove safe off without any Hurt, though they fired two Pistols after him. About three Weeks after this, they were passing down *Drury-Lane*, and observing a Gentleman going with one of the fine Ladies of the *Hundreds* into a Tavern thereabouts, one of the Gang who knew him, and that he had married a Lady with a great Fortune to whom his Father was Guardian, and that they liv'd altogether in a great House near *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*, thought on a Project immediately, and they stepping into an Ale-house, while he wrote an Epistle to the old Gentleman, informing him that they had a Warrant to apprehend a Lewd Woman who was with Child by his Son, but that she had made her Escape, and


was now actually with him at such a Tavern in *Drury-Lane*; wherefore being apprehensive of Disturbance, and being unwilling to disgrace his Family, rather than take rougher Methods, they had inform'd him, in order that by his Interposition the Affair might be made up; as soon as they had written this Letter, they dispatched one of their Number to carry it with order to deliver it as if by Mistake, to the young Gentleman's Wife; this had the desired Effect, for in less than half an Hour came the Father, the Wife, and another of her Trustees, who happened to be paying a Visit there when the Letter came; they no sooner entered the Tavern, but hearing the Gentleman's Voice they ask'd for, they without Ceremony opened the Door, and finding a Woman there, all was believed, and there followed a mighty Uproar; two of the Rogues who were best dressed, had slipped into the next Room and called for half a Pint; they as if by accident came out at the Noise, and under Pretence of enquiring the Occasion, took the Opportunity of picking the Gentleman's Pockets of 25 Guineas, one Gold Watch, and two Silver Snuff-Boxes, which it is to be presumed were never missed 'till the Hurry of that Affair was over.

WILLIAM SPERRY, a Foot-Pad.

THE last Robbery *Sperry* committed was upon one *Thomas Golding*, not far from *Bromley*, who not having any Money about him, *Sperry* endeavoured to make it up, by taking all his Cloaths; for which being apprehended, at the next Sessions at the *Old-Baily* he was convicted for this Offence, and having no Friends, could not entertain the least hopes of Pardon; from the time therefore that he was convicted, and indeed from that of his Commitment, he behaved like a Person on the Brink of another World, ingenuously confessing all his Guilt, and acknowledging readily the Justice of that Sentence, by which he was doomed to Death. His Behaviour was perfectly uniform, and as he never put on an Air of Contempt towards Death, so at its nearest approach, he did not seem exceedingly terrified therewith, but with great Calmness of Mind prepared for his Dissolution; on the Day of his Execution his Countenance seem'd rather chearfuller than ordinary, and left this World with all exterior Signs of true Penitence and Contrition, on *Monday* the 24th of *May*, 1725, at *Tyburn*; being then about 23 Years of Age.



The LIFE of ROBERT HARPHAM,
a Coiner.

 N my former Volume, I have taken Occasion in the Life of *Barbara Spencer* to mention the Laws against *Coining* as they stand at present in this *Kingdom*; I shall not therefore detain my Readers here with any unnecessary Introduction, but proceed to inform them that a Multitude of false *Guineas* being talked of, the natural Consequence of a few being detected, great Pains therefore being taken by the Officers belonging to the *Mint*, for detecting those by whom such Frauds had been committed; it was not long before Information was had of one *Robert Harpham* and *Thomas Broom*, who were suspected of being the Persons by whom such false *Guineas* had been made; upon these Suspicions, *Search Warrants* were granted, and a large *Engine* of Iron was discovered at *Harpham's* House, with other Tools supposed to be made use of for that Purpose; the Mob on this Occasion immediately gave out, that a Cart Load of *Guineas*

neas had been carried from thence, because those Instruments were so cumbersome, as to be fetch'd in that manner; tho' the Truth indeed was, no great Number of false Guineas had been coined, tho' the Instruments undoubtedly were fitted and made use of for that Purpose. *Harpham* who well knew what Evidence might be produced against him, never flattered himself with Hopes after he came into *Newgate*, but as he believed he should die, so he prepared himself for it as well as he could.

AT his Trial the Evidence against him was very full and direct, *Mr. Pinkney* deposed flatly, that the Instruments produced in Court, and which were sworn to be taken from the Prisoner's House, could not serve for any other Use than that of Coining; these Instruments were an *Iron Press* of very great Weight, a *cutting Instrument* for forming *Blanks*, an *Edging Tool* for *Indenting*, with two *Dies* for Guineas, and two *Dies* for half Guineas; to strengthen this, *William Fordham* deposed in Relation to the Prisoner's Possession, and *Mr. Hornbey* swore directly to his striking an half Guinea in his Presence; *Mr. Oakley* and *Mr. Tardley* deposing farther, that they had flatted very considerable Quantities of a mix'd Mettal for the Prisoner, made up of *Brass*, *Copper*, &c. sometimes to the

Quantity of 30 or 40 Pound Weight at a Time ; the Defence he made was very weak and trifling, and the Jury after a very short Consideration brought him in guilty of the Indictment, and he never entertaining any Hopes of Pardon, bent all his Endeavours in making his Peace with God ; some Persons in the Prison had been very civil to him, and one of them presuming thereon, asked him wherein the great Secret of his Art of Coining lay ? Mr. Harpham thanked him for the Kindnesses he had received of him, but said, *that he should make a very ill Return for the time afforded him by the Law for Repentance, if he should leave behind him any thing of that Kind which might farther Detriment his Country.* Some Instances were also made to him, that he should discover certain Persons of that same Profession with himself, who were likely to carry on the same Frauds long after his Discease. Mr. Harpham, notwithstanding the Answer he had made the other Gentleman, refused to comply with this Request, for he said, *that the Instruments seized would effectually prevent that, and he would not take away their Lives and ruin their Families, when he was sure they were incapacitated from Coining any thing for the future.* However that he might discharge his Conscience as far as he could, he

he wrote several *Pathetick Letters* to the Persons concerned; earnestly exhorting them for the Sake of themselves and their Families to leave off this wicked Employment, and not hazard their Lives and their Salvation in any farther Attempt of that sort. Having thus disengaged himself from all worldly Concerns, he dedicated the last Moments of his Life entirely to the Service of God; and having received the Sacrament the Day before his Execution, he was conveyed the next Noon to *Tyburn* in a Sledge, where he was not a little disturbed, even in the Agonies of Death by the Tumult and Insults the Mob offered to *Jonathan Wild*, which he complained much of and seemed very uneasy at; he suffered on the same Day with the last mentioned Malefactor, appearing to be then about 2 or 3 and forty Years of Age.





*The LIFE of the famous JONATHAN
WILD, Thief-Taker.*



AS no Person in this Collection ever made so much Noise as the Person we are now speaking of, so never any Man perhaps in any Condition of Life whatever had so many Romantick Stories fathered upon him in his Life, or so many fictitious Legendary Accounts published of him after his Death; it may seem a low Kind of Affectation to say, that the Memoirs we are now giving of *Jonathan Wild*, are founded on Certainty and Fact, and that though they are so founded, they are yet more extraordinary than any of those Fabulous Relations, pushed into the World to get a Penny at the time of his Death, when it was a proper Season for vending such Forgeries; the Publick looking with so much Attention on his *Catastrophe*, and greedily catching up whatever pretended to the giving an Account of his Actions. But to go on with the History in its proper Order.

JONA

JONATHAN WILD was the Son of Persons in a Mean and low State of Life; yet for all that I have ever heard of them both Honest and Industrious; their Family consisted of three Sons, and two Daughters, whom their Father and Mother maintained and educated in the best Manner they could from their joint Labours, he as *Carpenter*, and she by selling Fruit in *Woolverhampton* Market in *Staffordshire*, which in future Ages may perhaps become famous, as the Birth Place of the celebrated Mr. *Jonathan Wild*. He was the eldest of the Sons, and received as good an Education as his Father's Circumstances would allow him, being bred at the Free-School to read and write, to both of which having attained to a tollerable Degree; he was put out an Apprentice to a *Buckle-Maker* in *Birmingham*. He served his Time with much Fidelity, and came up to Town in the Service of a Gentleman of the long Robe, about the Year 1704, or perhaps a little later; but he not liking his Service, or his Master not altogether so well pleas'd with him, he quitted it and retired again to his old Employment in the Country, where he continued to work diligently for some time; but at last growing sick of Labour, and still entertaining a Desire of tasting the Pleasures of *London*, up hither he came a second time,
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and worked Journey-work at the Trade to which he was bred; but this not producing Money enough, to support those Expences *Jonathan's* Love of Pleasure threw him into, he got pretty deeply in Debt, and some of his Creditors not being endued with altogether as much Patience as his Circumstances required, he was suddenly Arrested, and thrown into *Wood-Street* Compter; having no Friends to do any thing for him, and having very little in his Pocket when this Misfortune happened, he liv'd very hardly there, scarce getting Bread enough to support him from the Charity allowed to Prisoners, and what little Services he could render to Prisoners of the better Sort in the Goal; however as no Man wanted Address less than *Jonathan*, so no body could have employed it more properly than he did upon this Occasion; he thereby got so much into the Favour of the Keepers, that they quickly permitted him the Liberty of the Gate, as they call it, and he thereby got some little Matter for going of Errands; this set him above the very Pinch of Want, and that was all, but his Fidelity and Industry in these mean Employments procured him such Esteem amongst those in Power there, that they soon took him into their Ministry, and appointed him an Under-keeper to those disorderly Persons who

who were brought in every Night, and are called, in their Cant, *Rats*. *Jonathan* now came into a comfortable Subsistence, having learnt how to get Money of such People, by putting them into the Road of getting Liberty for themselves; but there, says my Author, he met with a Lady who was confined on the Score of such Practices very often, and who went by the Name of *Mary Milliner*, and who soon taught him how to gain much greater Sums than in this Way of Life, by Methods which he 'till then never heard of, and will, I am confident, to this Day carry the Charms of Novelty to most of my Readers; of these the first she put him upon, was going on what they call the *Twang*, which is thus managed; the Man who is the Confederate goes out with some noted Woman of the Town, and if she fall into any Broil, he is to be at a proper Distance, ready to come into her Assistance, and by making a sham Quarrel, give her an Opportunity of getting off, perhaps after she has dived for a Watch or a Purse of Guineas, and was in Danger of being caught in the very Fact; this proved a very successful Employment to Mr. *Wild* for a time. *Moll* and he therefore resolved to set up together, and for that Purpose took Lodgings and liv'd as Man and Wife; notwithstanding *Jona-*
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than had a Wife and a Son at *Woolverhampton*, and the fair Lady was married to a *Waterman* in Town; by the help of this Woman, *Jonathan* grew acquainted with all the notorious Gangs of loose Persons within the Bills of Mortality, and was also perfectly vers'd in the Manner by which they carried on their Schemes, he knew where and how their Enterprizes were to be gone upon, and after what Manner they disposed of their ill got Goods, when they came into their Possession. *Wild* having always an intreiguing Head, set up for a *Director* amongst them, and soon became so useful to them, that though he never went out upon any of their Lays, yet he got as much or more Money by their Crimes, than if he had been a Partner with them, which upon one Pretence or other he always declined; he had long ago got rid of that Debt for which he had been imprisoned in the *Compter*, and having by his own Thought projected a new Manner of Life, he began in a very little time to grow weary of Mrs. *Milliner*, who had been his first Instructor; what probably contributed thereto was the Dangers to which he saw himself exposed, by continuing a *Bully* in her Service; however, they parted without falling out, and as he had occasion to make use of her pretty often in his new Way of Busi-

Business, so she proved very faithful and industrious to him in it, tho' she still went on in her old Way. 'Tis now time that both this and the remaining Part of my Discourse may be intelligible to explain the Methods by which Thieves became the better for Thieving where they did not steal ready Money; and of this we will now speak in the clearest and most concise Manner that we can.

IT must be observed that anciently when a Thief had got his Booty, he had done all that a Man in his Profession could do, and there were Multitudes of People ready to help them off, with whatever Effects he had got without any more to do; but this Method being totally destroyed by an Act passed in the Reign of King *William*, by which it was made Felony for any Person to buy Goods stolen, knowing them to be so, and some Examples having been made on this Act; there was few or no Receivers to be met with, those that still carried on the Trade taking exorbitant Sums for their own Profit, and leaving those who had run the Hazard of their Necks in obtaining them, the least Share in their Plunder. This (as an ingenious Author says) had like to have brought the Thieving Trade to nought; but *Jonathan* quickly thought of a Method to put things

things again in Order, and give new Life to the Practicers in the several Branches of that ancient Art and Mystery call'd Stealing. The Method he took was this:

As soon as any considerable Robbery was committed, and *Jonathan* receiv'd Intelligence by whom, he immediately went to the Thieves, and instead of offering to buy the Whole, or any part of the Plunder, he only enquir'd how the Thing was done, where the Persons liv'd who were injur'd, and what the Booty consisted in that was taken away; then pretending to chide them for their Wickedness in doing such Actions, and exhorting them to live honestly for the Future, he gave it them as his Advice, to lodge what they had taken in a proper Place which he appointed them, and then promised he would take some Measures for their Security, by getting the People to give them somewhat to have them restored them again. Having thus wheedled those who had committed a Robbery, into a Compliance with his Measures, his next Business was to divide the Goods into several Parcels, and cause them to be sent to different Places, always avoiding taking them into his own Hands: Things being in this Position, *Jonathan*, or *Mrs. Milliner*, went to the Persons who were Robb'd, and after condoling the Misfortune, pretended

pretended that they had an Acquaintance with a Broker, to whom certain Goods were brought, some of which they suspected to be stolen, and hearing that the Person to whom they thus applied had been robb'd, they said they thought it the Duty of one honest Body to another, to inform them thereof, and to enquire what Goods they were they lost, in order to discover whether those they spoke of were the same or no. People who have had such Losses, are always ready after the first Fit of Passion is over, to hearken to any Thing that has a Tendency towards recovering their Goods: *Jonathan* or his Mistress therefore, who could either of them play the Hypocrite nicely, had no great Difficulty in making People listen to such Terms; in a Day or two therefore they were sure to come again, with Intelligence that having called upon their Friend, and look'd over the Goods, they had found Part of the Things there, and provided no Body was brought into Trouble, and the Broker had something in Consideration of his Care, they might be had again. He generally told the People when they came on this Errand, that he had heard of another Parcel at such a Place, and that if they would stay a little, he would go and see whether they were such as they describ'd theirs

to be which they had lost. This Practice of *Jonathan's*, if well consider'd, carries in it a great deal of Policy; for first it seem'd to be a very honest and good-natur'd Act to prevail on evil Persons to restore the Goods which they had stole; and it must be acknowledged to be a great Benefit to those who were robb'd, thus to have their Goods again upon a reasonable Premium; *Jonathan* or his Mistress all the while taking apparently nothing, their Advantages arising from what they took out of the Gratitude left with the Broker, and out of what they had bargain'd with the Thief to be allowed out of the Money which they had procured him. Such People finding this Advantage in it thus, the Rewards were very near as large as the Price is now given by Receivers, since receiving became so dangerous, and they reaped a certain Security also by the Bargain. With Respect to *Jonathan*, the Contrivance plac'd him in Safety, not only from all the Laws then in Being, but perhaps would have secured him as effectually from those that are made now, if Covetousness had not prevailed with him to take bolder Steps than these; for in a short time he began to give himself out for a Person who made it his Business to procure stolen Goods to their right Owners: When he first did this, he acted

acted with so much Art and Cunning, that he acquired a very great Reputation, not only as an honest Man from those who dealt with him to procure what they had lost, but even from People of higher Station, who observing the Industry with which he Prosecuted certain Malefactors, took him for a Friend of Justice, and as such afforded him Countenance and Encouragement. Certain it is, that he brought more Villains to the Gallows than perhaps any Man ever did, and consequently by diminishing their Number, made it much more safe for Persons to Travel, or even to reside with Security in their own Houses; and so sensible was *Jonathan* of that Necessity there was for him to act in this Manner, that he constantly hung up two or three of his *Clients* at least in a Twelve-month, that he might keep up that Character to which he had attained, and so indefatigable was he in the Pursuit of those he endeavoured to apprehend, that it never happen'd in all his Course of acting, so much as one single Person escap'd him; nor need this appear so great a Wonder, if we consider, that the exact Acquaintance he had with their Gangs, and the Haunts they used, put it out of their Power almost to hide themselves so as to avoid his Searches.

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WHEN this Practice of *Jonathan's* became noted, and the People resorted continually to his House in order to hear of the Goods which they had lost, it produced not only much Discourse, but some Enquiries into his Behaviour; *Jonathan* foresaw this, and in order to evade any ill Consequence that might follow upon it, put on, upon such Occasions, an Air of Gravity, and complain'd of the evil Disposition of the Times, which would not permit a Man to serve his Neighbours and his Country without Censure; For do I not, quoth *Jonathan*, do the greatest Good to the one, when I persuade those wicked People who have deprived them of their Properties, to restore them again for a reasonable Consideration: And are not the Villains, whom I have so industriously brought to suffer that Punishment, which the Law, for the Sake of its honest Subjects, thinks fit to inflict upon them: In this Respect, I say, does not their Deaths shew how much Use I am of to the Country? Why then, added *Jonathan*, should People asperse me, or endeavour to take away my Bread? This kind of Discourse served, as my Readers must all know, to keep *Wild* safe in his Employment for many Years, while not a Step he took, but trod on Felony, nor a Farthing did he obtain but what deserv'd the Gallows. Two great Things
their

there were which contributed to his Preservation, and they were these: The great Readiness the Government always shews in detecting Persons guilty of capital Offences; in which Case we know 'tis common to offer not only Pardon, but Rewards to Persons guilty, provided they make Discoveries; and this *Jonathan* was so sensible of, that he did not only screen himself behind this Lenity of the Supreme Power, but made use of it also as a sort of Authority, and behav'd himself with a very presuming Air; and taking upon him the Character of a sort of Minister of Justice, which assumed Character of his, however ill founded, prov'd of great Advantage to him in the Course of his Life. The other Point, which, as I have said, contributed to keep him from any Prosecutions on the Score of these illegal and unwarrantable Actions, was the great Willingness of People, who had been robb'd, to recover their Goods, and who, provided for a small Matter they could regain Things of a considerable Worth, were so far from taking Pains to bring the Offenders to Justice, that they thought the Premium a cheap Price to get off: And thus by the Rigour of the *Magistrate*, and the Lenity of the *Subject*, *Jonathan* claim'd constant Employment; and according as wicked Persons behav'd, they were either

truss'd up to satisfy the just Vengeance of the one, or protected and encouraged, that by bringing the Goods they stole, he might be enabled to satisfy the Demands of the other. And thus we see the Policy of a mean and scandalous *Thief-Taker*, conducted with as much Prudence, Caution, and necessary Courage, as the Measures taken by even the greatest Persons upon Earth; nor perhaps is their in all History an Instance of a Man who thus openly dallied with the Laws, and play'd even with Capital Punishment. As I am persuaded my Readers will take a Pleasure in the Relation of *Jonathan's* Maxims of Policy, I shall be a little more particular in Relation to them, than otherwise I should have been, considering that in this Work I do not propose to treat of the Actions of a single Person, but to consider the Villainies committed throughout the Space of a dozen Years, such especially as have reach'd to publick Notice, by bringing the Authors of them to the Gallows: But Mr. *Wild* being a Man of such Eminence, as to value himself in his Life-time on his Superiority to meaner Rogues; so I am willing to distinguish him, now he is dead, by shewing a greater Complaisance, in recording his History, than that of any other *Hero* in this Way whatsoever.

NOR to speak properly, was *Jonathan* ever an Operator, as they call it, that is, a practitioner in any one Branch of Thieving; no, his Method was to acquire Money at an easier Rate, and if any Title can be devised suitable to his great Performance, it must be that of *Director General* of the united Forces of Highway-men, House-breakers, Foot-pads, Pick-pockets, and private Thieves. Now according to my Promise for the Maxims by which he supported himself in this dangerous Capacity. In the first Place he continually exhorted the Plunderers that belong'd to his several Gangs to let him know punctually what Goods they at any time took, by which Means, he had it in his Power to give, for the most part, a direct Answer to those who came to make their Enquiries after they had lost their Effects, either by their own Carelessness, or the Dexterity of the Thief; if they complied faithfully with his Instructions, he was a certain Protector on all Occasions, and sometimes had Interest enough to procure them Liberty when apprehended, either in the committing a Robbery, or upon the Information of one of the Gang; in which Case, *Jonathan's* usual Pretence was; *that such a Person who was the Man he intended to save, was capable of making a larger and more effectual Information, for which Purpose,*

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pose, *Jonathan* would sometimes supply him with Memorandums of his own, and thereby establish so well the Credit of his Discovery, as scarce ever to fail of producing its Effect; but if they pretended to become Independent, and despise his Rules, endeavour for the Sake of Profit, to vend the Goods they got some other way without making Application to *Jonathan*, or if they threw out any threatening Speeches against their Companions, or grumbled at the Compositions he made for them, in such Cases as these, *Wild* took the first Opportunity of talking to them in a new Stile, telling them, *That he was well assured they did very ill Acts, and plunder'd poor honest People; to indulge themselves in their Debaucheries, that they would do well to think of amending before the Justice of their Country fell upon them; and that after such Warning they must not expect any Assistance from him, in Case they should fall under any Misfortune.* The next Thing that followed after this fine *Harangue* was, they were put into the Information of some of *Jonathan's* Creatures, or the first fresh Fact they committed, and *Jonathan* was applied to for the Recovery of the Goods, he immediately set out to apprehend them, and labour'd so indefatigably therein, that they never escaped him; and thus he not only procured the Re-

ward for himself, but also gained an Opportunity of pretending, that he not only restored Goods to the right Owners, but also apprehended the Thief as often as it was in his Power: As to Instances, I shall mention them in a proper Place. I shall now go on to another Observation, *viz.* that in those Steps of his Business which were most hazardous, *Jonathan* made the People themselves take the first Steps, and by publishing Advertisements of Things lost, directing them to be brought to *Mr. Wild*, who was empowered to receive them, and pay such a Reward as the Person that lost them thought fit to offer; and *Jonathan* in this Capacity appear'd no otherwise than as a Person on whose Honour these sort of People could rely: By which, his Assistance became necessary for retrieving whatever had been pilfer'd. After he had gone on in this Trade for about ten Years with Success, he began to lay aside much of his former Caution, giving Way to the natural Vanity of his Temper; taking a larger House in the Great Old Bailey than that in which he formerly lived; giving the Woman, whom he called his Wife, abundance of fine Things; and keeping open Office for restoring stolen Goods; appointing abundance of under Officers to receive Goods, carry Messages to those who

stole them, bring him exact Intelligence of the several Gangs, and the Places of their Resort, and in fine, for such other Purposes as this their supreme Governor directed. His Fame being at last come to that height, that Persons of the *highest Quality* would condescend to make use of his Abilities, when at an *Instalation, publick Entry*, or some other great Solemnity they had the Misfortune of losing *Watches, Jewels*, or other things, whether of great, real or imaginary Value. But as his Method of treating those who applied to him for his Assistance has been much misrepresented. I shall next give an exact and impartial Account thereof, that the fabulous History of *Jonatban Wild* may not be imposed upon Posterity.

IN the first Place, then when a Person was introduced to Mr. *Wild's* Office; it was first hinted to him, that a Crown must be deposited by way of Fee for his Advice, when this was complied with, a large Book was brought out, then the Loser was examined with much Formality, as to the Time, Place, and Manner, that the Goods became missing, and then the Person was dismissed with a Promise of careful Enquiries being made, and of hearing more concerning them in a Day or two; when this was adjusted, the Persons took their Leave, with great hopes

hopes of being acquainted shortly with the Fruits of Mr. *Wild's* Industry, and highly satisfied with the methodical Treatment they had met with, when at the bottom this was all Grimace; *Wild* had not the least Occasion for these Queries, but to amuse the Persons he asked; for he knew before-hand all the Circumstances of the Robbery much better than they did; nay, perhaps had the very Goods in his House when the Folks came first to enquire for them, though for Reasons not hard to guess'd he made use of all this Formality; before he proceeded to return them, when therefore according to his Appointment the Enquirer came the second Time, *Jonathan* then took care by a new Scene to amuse him, he was told that Mr. *Wild* had indeed made Enquiries, but was very sorry to communicate the Event of them; the Thief truly who was a bold impudent Fellow, rejected with scorn the Offer which pursuant to the Losers. Instructions had been made him, pretended he could sell the Goods at a double Price; and in short, would not hear a Word of Restitution unless upon better Terms; but notwithstanding all this, says *Jonathan*, *if I can but come to the Speech of him, I don't doubt bringing him to Reason.* At length, after one or two more Attendances, Mr. *Wild* gave the definitive

Answer; that provided no Questions were ask'd and you gave so much Money to the Porter who brought them, you might have your Things returned at such an Hour precisely. This was transacted with all outward Appearances of Friendship and honest Intention on his Side, and with great seeming Frankness and Generosity; but when you come to the last Article, *viz.* what Mr. *Wild* expected for his Trouble, then an Air of Coldness was put on, and he answered with equal Pride and Indifference, *that what he did was purely from a Principle of doing Good, as to a Gratitude for the Trouble he had taken, he left it totally to yourself, you might do in it what you thought fit*; and even when Money was presented to him, he received it with the same negligent Grace, always putting you in mind that it was your own Act, that you did it merely out of your Generosity, and that it was no way the Result of his Request, and that he took it as a Favour, not as a Reward.

THUS by this Dexterity in his Management, he fenced himself against the Rigour of the Law, in the Midst of these notorious Transgressions of it, for what could be imputed to Mr. *Wild*? He neither saw the Thief, who took away your Goods, nor received them after they were taken; the Method

thod he pursued in order to procure you your Things again, was neither dishonest nor illegal, if you will believe his Account on it, and no other than his Account of it could be gotten. It was performed after this manner, after having enquired amongst such loose People as he acknowledged he had Acquaintance with, and hearing there that such a Robbery was committed at such a Time, and such and such Goods taken, he thereupon had caused it to be intimated to the Thief, that if he had any Regard for his own Safety, he would cause such and such Goods to be carried to such a Place, in Consideration of which, he might reasonably hope such a Reward, naming a certain Sum, which if it excited the Thief to return the Goods, it did not thereby fix any Guilt or Blame upon *Jonathan*, and by this Description, I fancy my Readers will have a pretty clear Idea of the Man's Capacity, as well as of his Villainy.

HAD Mr. *Wild* continued satisfied with this Way of dealing, in all human Probability he might have gone to his Grave in Peace, without any Apprehensions of Punishment but what he was to meet with in a *World* to come; but he was greedy, and instead of keeping constant to this safe

Method, came at last to take the Goods into his own Custody, giving those that stole them what he thought proper, and then making such a Bargain with the Loser, as he was able to bring him up to, sending the *Porter* himself, and taking without Ceremony whatever Money had been given him; but as this happened only in the two last Years of his Life, it is fit I should give you some Instances of his Behaviour before, and these not from the Hear-say of the Town, but within the Compass of my own Knowledge. A Gentleman who dealt in Silks near *Covent-Garden*, had bespoke a Piece of extraordinary rich Damask, on Purpose for the *Birth-Day* Suit of a certain *Duke*, and the *Lace-Man* having brought such Trimming as was proper for it, the *Mercer* had made the whole up in a Parcel, tied it at each End with blue Ribband, sealed with great Exactness, and placed on one End of the Counter, in Expectation of his *Grace's* Servant, who he knew was directed to call for it in the Afternoon; accordingly the Fellow came, but when the *Mercer* went to deliver him the Goods, the Piece was gone, and no Account could possibly be had of it, as the Master had been all Day in the Shop, so there was no Pretence of charging any thing, either
upon

upon the Carelessness or Dishonesty of Servants; after an Hour's fretting therefore, seeing no other Remedy, he e'en determined to go and communicate his Loss to Mr. *Wild*, in hopes of receiving some Benefit by his Assistance; the Loss consisting not so much in the Value of the Things, as in the Disappointment it would be to the Nobleman not to have them on the *Birth-Day*. Upon this Consideration an *Hackney - Coach* was immediately called, and away he was ordered to drive directly to *Jonathan's* House in the *Old-Baily*; as soon as he came into the Room, and had acquainted Mr. *Wild* with his Business, the usual Deposite of a Crown being made, and the common Questions of the *how, when, and where*, having been ask'd, the *Mercer* being very impatient, said with some kind of Heat, Mr. *Wild*, the Loss I have sustained, though the intrinsic Value of the Goods be very great lies much more in obliging my Customer, tell me therefore in a few Words, if it be in your Power to serve me, if it is, I have thirty Guineas here ready to lay down, but if you expect that I should dance Attendance for a Week or two, I assure you I shall not be willing to part with above half the Money. Good Sir, replied Mr. *Wild*, have a little more Consideration, I am no Thief Sir, nor no Receiver of stolen Goods, so

that if you don't think fit to give me Time to enquire, you must e'en take what Measures you please : When the Mercer found he was like to be left without any hopes, began to talk in a milder Strain, and with abundance of Intreaties fell to persuading *Jonathan* to think of some Method to serve him, and that immediately ; *Wild* stepped out a Minute or two, as if to the Necessary-House ; as soon as he came back, told the Gentleman, it was not in his Power to serve the Gentleman in such a Hurry, if at all ; however, in a Day or two he might be able to give him some Answer ? the Mercer insisted that a Day or two would lessen the Value of the Goods one half to him, and *Jonathan* insisted as peremptorily, that it was not in his Power to do any thing sooner ; at last a Servant came in a Hurry, and told Mr. *Wild*, there was a Gentleman below desired to speak with him ; *Jonathan* bowed and begged the Gentleman's Pardon, told him, he wou'd wait on him in one Minute, and without staying for a Reply withdrew, clapped the Door after him, in about five Minutes he returned with a very smiling Countenance ; and turning to the Gentleman, said, I protest Sir, you are the luckiest Man I ever knew, I spoke to one of my People just now, to go to a House where I know some Lifiers resort, and directed him to
talk

talk of the Robbery that had been committed in your House, and to say, the Gentleman had been with me and offered thirty Guineas, provided the Things might be had again; but declared, if he did not receive them in a very short Space, he would give as great a Reward for the Discovery of the Thief, whom he would prosecute with the utmost Severity; this Story has had its Effect, and if you go directly home, I fancy you'll hear more News of it yourself, than I am able to tell you; but pray Sir, remember one thing, that the thirty Guineas was your own Offer, you are at free Liberty to give them, or let them alone, do which you please, 'tis nothing to me; but take Notice Sir, that I done all for you in my Power, without the least Expectation of Gratitude: Away went the Mercer, confounded in his Mind, and wondering where this Affair would End; but as he walked up Southampton-street a Fellow overtook him, patted him on the Shoulder, and delivered him the Bundle unopened, told him the Price was twenty Guineas; the Mercer paid it him directly, and returning to Jonathan in half an Hour's time, readily expressed Abundance of thanks to Mr. Wild for his Assistance, and begged him to accept of the ten Guineas he had saved him for his Pains; Jonathan told him, that he had saved him nothing, but sup-
posed

posed that the People thought twenty Demand enough, considering that they were now pretty safe from Prosecution. The Mercer still pressed the ten Guineas upon Jonathan, who after taking them out of his Hand returned him Five of them, and assured him, *there was more than enough*; adding, *'tis Satisfaction enough Sir, to an honest Man, that he is able to procure People their Goods again*: This you will say was a Remarkable Instance of his Moderation; I will join to it as extraordinary an Account of his Justice, Equity, or what else you will please to call it. It happened thus,

A Lady whose Husband was out of the Kingdom, and had sent for her Over-Draughts for her Assistance to the amount of between fifteen Hundred and two Thousand Pounds, lost the Pocket-Book in which they were contained, between *Bucklers-bury* and *Magpye-Ale-House* in *Leaden hall-street*, where the Merchant lived upon whom they were drawn; she however, went to the Gentleman, and he advised her to go directly to Mr. *Jonathan Wild*; accordingly to Jonathan she came, deposited the Crown, and answered the Questions she asked him, Jonathan then told her that in an Hour or two's time, possibly some of his People might hear who it was that had picked her Pocket; the
Lady

Lady was Vehement in her Desires to have it again, and for that Purpose went so far at last as to offer an hundred Guineas ; *Wild* upon that made Answer, *though they are of much greater Value to you, Madam, yet they cannot be worth any thing like it to them, therefore keep your own Council, say nothing in the Hearing of my People, and I'll give the best Directions I am able for the Recovery of your Notes ; in the mean while if you will go to any Tavern near, and endeavour to eat a Bit of Dinner, I will bring you an Answer before the Cloth is taken away ;* she said she was unacquainted with any House thereabouts, upon which *Mr. Wild* named the *Baptist-Head* ; the Lady would not be satisfied unless *Mr. Wild* promised to eat with her ; he at last complied, and she ordered a Fowl and Sau-
sages at the House he had appointed, she waited there about three Quarters of an Hour, when *Mr. Wild* came over and told her he had heard News of her Book, desired her to tell out ten Guineas upon the Table in case she should have Occasion for them, and as the Cook came up to acquaint her that the Fowl was ready, *Jonathan* begged she would just step down to the Street-Door, and see whether there was any Woman waiting at his Door ; the Lady without minding the Mystery did as he desired her, and perceiv-
ing

ing a Woman in a Scarlet Riding-hood walk twice or thrice by Mr. *Wild's* House, her Curiosity prompted her to go near her, but recollecting she had left the Gold upon the Table up Stairs, she went and snatched it up without saying a Word to *Jonathan*, and then running down again went towards the Woman in the red Hood, who was still walking before his Door; it seems she had guess'd right, for no sooner did she approach towards her but the Woman came directly up to her, and presenting her her Pocket-Book, desired, *she would open it and see that all was safe; the Lady did so, and answering it was all right,* the Woman in the red Riding-Hood said, *here's another little Note for you Madam,* upon which she gave her a little Billet, on the Out-side of which was written Guineas, the Lady delivered her the Money immediately, adding also a Piece for herself, and returned with a great deal of Joy to Mr. *Wild*, told him, *she had got her Book, and would now eat her Dinner heartily;* when the things were taken away, she thought it was time to go to the Merchants, who probably now was returned from *Change*, but first thought it necessary to make Mr. *Wild* an handsome Present; for which purpose, putting her Hand in her Pocket, she with great Surprise found her Green Purse gone,
in

in which was the Remainder of fifty Guineas she had borrowed of the *Merchant* in the Morning, upon this she look'd very much confus'd, but did not speak a Word; *Jonathan* perceiv'd it, and ask'd her if she was not well: I am tolerably in Health, Sir, answer'd she, but am amaz'd that the Woman took but ten Guineas for the Book, and at the same Time pick'd my Pocket of 39. Mr. *Wild* hereupon appeared in as great a Confusion as the *Lady*, said, he hoped she was not in earnest, but if it were so, begg'd her not to disturb her self, she should not lose one Farthing: Upon which *Jonathan* begging her to sit still, stepped over to his own House, and gave, as may be suppos'd, necessary Directions; for in less than half an Hour, a little *Jew* (call'd *Abraham*) that *Wild* kept, bolted into the Room, and told him the Woman was taken, and on the Point of going to the *Compter*; . you shall see, *Madam*, replied *Jonathan*, turning to the *Lady*, what exemplary Punishment I'll make of this infamous Woman: Then turning himself to the *Jew*, *Abraham*, says he, was the Green Purse of Money taken about her, yes Sir, replied his Agent, O la! then said the *Lady*, I'll take the Purse with all my Heart; I would not prosecute the poor Wretch for the World. Would not you so, *Madam*, replied *Wild*? well then
we'll

we'll see what's to be done: Upon which he first whisper'd his Emissary, and then dispatch'd him: He was no sooner gone, than *Jonathan* saying the *Lady* would be too late at the *Merchant's*, unless they took Coach; which thereupon they did, and stopped over against the *Compter Gate* by *Stocks-Market*. She wonder'd at all this, but by that Time they had been in a Tavern there a very little Space, back comes *Jonathan's* Emissary with the green Purse and the Gold in it, *she* says Sir, said the Fellow to Wild, *she* has only broke a Guinea of the Money for Garnish and Wine, and here's all the Rest of it. Very well, says *Jonathan*, give it to the *Lady*: Will you please to tell it *Madam*? The *Lady* accordingly did, and found there was forty nine, bless me! says *she*, I think the *Woman's* bewitch'd, *she* has sent me ten Guineas more than I should have had, no *Madam*, replied Wild, *She* has sent you the ten Guineas back again, which *she* receiv'd for the Book; I never suffer any such Practices in my Way: I obliged her therefore to give up the Money *she* had taken as well as that *she* had stole; and therefore hope, whatever you may think of her, that you will not have a worse Opinion of your humble Servant for this Accident. The *Lady* was so much confounded and confuted at these unaccountable Incidents, that
she

she scarce knew what she did; at last recollecting herself, well Mr. *Wild*, says she, *Then I think the least I can do is to oblige you to accept of these ten Guineas*; no, replied he, *nor of ten Farthings, I scorn all Actions of such a sort as much as any Man of Quality in the Kingdom*; all the Reward I desire, Madam, is, *that you will acknowledge I have acted like an honest Man, and a Man of Honour*. He had scarce pronounced these Words, before he rose up, made her a Bow, and went immediately down Stairs. *The Reader* may be assured there is not the least Mixture of Fiction in this Story, and yet perhaps there was not a more remarkable one which happen'd in the whole Course of *Jonathan's* Life. I shall add but one more Relation of this Sort, and then go on with the Series of my History; this which I am now going to relate, happening within a few Doors of the Place where I liv'd, and was transacted in this manner. There came a little Boy with Viols to sell in a Basket to a *Surgeon's Shop*, who was my very intimate Acquaintance; it was in the Winter, and the Weather Cold, when one Day after he had sold the Bottles that were wanted, the Boy complain'd he was almost chill'd to Death with Cold, and almost starv'd for want of Victuals; the *Surgeon's Maid*, in Compassion to the Child, who
was

was not above nine or ten Years old, took him into the Kitchen, and gave him a Porringer of Milk and Bread, with a Lump or two of Sugar in it; the Boy eat a little of it, then said, *he had enough*, gave her a thousand Blessings, and Thanks, and march'd off with a *Silver Spoon*, and a pair of *Forceps* of the same Mettle, which lay in the Shop as he passed through; the Instrument was first missed, and the Search after it occasioned, their missing the Spoon; and yet no Body suspected any thing of the Boy, though they had all seen him in the Kitchen; the Gentleman of the House however having some Knowledge of *Jonathan Wild*, and not living far from the *Old-Baily*, went immediately to him for his Advice, *Jonathan* called for a Bottle of white Wine and ordered it to be mull'd; the Gentleman knowing the Custom of his House, laid down the Crown, and was going on to tell him the Manner in which the Things were missed, but Mr. *Wild* soon cut him short, by saying, *Sir, step into the next Room a Moment, here's a Lady coming hither, you may depend upon my doing any thing that is in my Power; and presently we'll talk the Thing over at Leisure*: The Gentleman went into the Room where he was directed, and saw, with no little Wonder, his *Forceps* and *Silver Spoon* lying upon the Table; he had

had hardly taken them up to look at them, before *Jonathan* enter'd, so Sir, said he, *I suppose you have no farther Occasion for my Assistance*, yes indeed I have, said the Surgeon, there are a great many Servants in our Family, and some of them will certainly be blamed for this Transaction, so that I am under a Necessity of begging another Favour, which is, that you will let me know how they were stolen? *I believe the Thief is not far off*, quoth *Jonathan*, and if you'll give me your Word he shall come to no Harm, I'll produce him immediately: The Gentleman readily condescended to this Proposition, and Mr. *Wild* stepping out for a Minute or two, brought in the young *Viol Merchant* in his Hand, here Sir, says *Wild*, do you know this hopeful Youth? Yes, answer'd the Surgeon, but I could have never dreamt that a Creature so little as he could have had so much Wickedness in him; however, as I have given you my Word, and as I have my Things again, I will not only pass by his robbing me, but if he will bring me Bottles again, shall make use of him as I used to do; I believe you may, added *Jonathan*, when he ventures into your House again: But it seems he was therein mistaken, for in less than a Week afterwards the Boy had the Impudence to come and offer his Viols again, upon which the Gentleman,

man, not only bought of him as usual, but ordered two Quarts of Milk to be set on the Fire, put into it two Ounces of *Glisten Sugar*, crumm'd it with a couple of *penny Bricks*, and obliged this *nimble figur'd Youth* to eat it every Drop up before he went out of the Kitchen Door, and then without farther Correction hurried him about his Business.

THIS was the Channel in which *Jonathan's* Business usually ran, but to support his Credit with the *Magistrates*, he was forced to add Thief-catching to it, and every Sessions or two, strung up some of the Youths of his own bringing up to the Gallows, but however this did not serve his Turn; an *honourable Person* on the *Bench* took Notice of his manner of acting, which being became at last very notorious, an Act of Parliament passed, levelled directly against such Practices, whereby Persons who took Money for the Recovery of stolen Goods, and did actually recover such Goods without apprehending the *Felon*, should be deemed guilty in the same Degree of *Felony* with those who committed the Fact in taking such Goods as were returned; and after this became a Law, the same honourable Person sent to him to warn him of going on any longer at his old Rate, for that it was now become a capital Crime, and if he was apprehended for it, he

he could expect no Mercy: *Jonathan* receiv'd the Reproof with Abundance of Thankfulness and Submission, but what was strange, never alter'd the Manner of his Behaviour in the least, but on the contrary, did it more openly and publickly than ever; indeed to compensate for this, he seem'd to double his Diligence in apprehending Thieves, and brought a vast Number of the most notorious amongst them to the Gallows, even though he himself had bred them up in the Art of Thieving, and given them both Instructions and Encouragement to take that Road ruinous enough in it self, and even by him made fatal. Of these none was so open and apparent a Case as that of *Blake*, alias *Blueskins*: This Fellow had from a Child been under the Tuition of *Jonathan*, who paid for the curing his Wounds, whilst he was in the Compter, allowed him Three and Six-pence a Week for his Subsistence, and afforded his Help to get him out there at last, yet soon after this he abandon'd him to his own Conduct in such Matters, and in a short Space caused him to be apprehended for breaking open the House of Mr. *Knee-bone*, which brought him to the Gallows; when the Fellow came to be tried, *Jonathan* indeed vouchsafed to speak to him, and assured him that his Body should be handsomely interr'd

interr'd in a good Coffin at his own Expence; this was strange Comfort, and such as by no Means suited with Blueskin; he insisted pre-emptorily upon a Transportation Pardon, which he said he was sure Jonathan had Interest enough to procure for him; but upon Wild's assuring him that he had not; and that it was in vain for him to flatter himself with such Hopes, but that he had better dispose himself to thinking of another Life, in order to which, good Books and such like Helps should not be wanting; all which put Blueskin at last into such a Passion, that though this Discourse happen'd upon the Leads at the Old Baily, in the Presence of the Court then sitting, Blake could not forbear taking a Revenge for what he took to be an Insult on him, and therefore, without ado, clap'd one Hand under Jonathan's Chin, and with the other, taking a sharp Knife out of his Pocket, cut him a large Gash a-cross the Throat, which every Body at the Time it was done judged Mortal; Jonathan was carried off, all cover'd with Blood, and though at that Time he profess'd the greatest Resentment for such base Usage, affirming that he had never deserved to be so treated, having done all that lay in his Power for the Man, who had so cruelly design'd against his Life; yet when he afterwards came to be under Sentence of

of Death himself; he regretted prodigiously the Escape he then made from Death, often wishing that the Knife of *Blake* had put an End to his Life, rather than left him to linger out his Days, till so ignominious a Fate befell him; indeed it was not *Blake* alone, who had entertained Notions of putting him to Death, he had disobliged almost the whole Group of Villains with whom he had had concern, and there were Numbers of them who had taken it into their Heads to deprive him of Life; his Escapes in the apprehending such Persons were sometimes very narrow, having received Wounds in almost every part of his Body, had his Skull twice fractured, and his whole Constitution so broken by these Accidents, and the great Fatigue he went through, that when he fell under the Misfortunes which brought him to his Death, he was scarce able to stand upright, and never in a Condition to go to Chappel: But we have broke a little into the Thread of our History, and must therefore go back in order to trace the Causes which brought on *Jonathan's* last Adventures, and finally his violent Death, which we shall now relate in the clearest and concise Manner that the thing will allow; being furnished for that Purpose, having to personal Experience added the best Intelli-

gence that could be procured, and that too from Persons the most deserving of Credit.

THE Practices of this Criminal in the manner we have before mentioned, continued long after the *Act of Parliament*, and that in so notorious a Manner at last, that both the Magistrates in *London* and *Middlesex*, thought themselves obliged by the Duty of their Offices to take Notice of him; this occasioned a Warrant to be granted against him, by a worshipful *Alderman* of the City, upon which Mr. *Wild* being apprehended somewhere near *Woodstreet*, he was carried into the *Rose Spunging-House*, there I myself saw him sitting in the Kitchen at the Fire, waiting the Leisure of the *Magistrate* who was to examine him; in the mean time the Crowd was very great, and *Jonathan* with his usual Hypocrisy harangued them to this purpose. I wonder, good People, what it is you would see? I am a poor honest Man, who have done all I could to serve People when they have had the Misfortune to lose their Goods by the Villainy of Thieves; I have contributed more than any one Man living, to bringing the most Daring and notorious Malefactors to Justice; yet now by the Malice of my Enemies, you see I am in Custody, and am going before a *Magistrate* who I hope will do me Justice; why should you insult me therefore?

I don't

I don't know that I ever injur'd any of you? let me intreat you therefore, as you see me lame in Body, and afflicted in Mind, not to make me more uneasy than I can bear; if I have offended against the Law it will punish me, but it gives you no right to use me ill, unheard, and unconvicted. The People of the House and the Compter Officers by this time, had pretty well clear'd the Place; upon which he began to compose himself, and desired them to get a Coach to the Door, for that he was unable to walk; about an Hour after, he was carried before a Justice and examined, and I think was thereupon immediately committed to Newgate; he lay there a considerable time before he was tried, at last he was convicted capitally upon the following Fact, which appeared on the Evidence, exactly in the same Light in which I shall State it.

HE was indicted on the afore-mentioned Statute, for receiving Money for the restoring stolen Goods, without apprehending the Persons by whom they were stolen, in order to support this Charge; the Prosecutrix *Catherine Stephens* deposed as follows, on the 22d of *January*, I had two Persons came into my Shop under Pretence of buying some Lace, they were so difficult that I had none below would please them; so leav-

ing my Daughter in the Shop, I stepped up Stairs and brought down another Box; we could not agree about the Price, and so they went away together; in about half an Hour after I missed a Tin Box of Lace that I valued at 50 *l.* the same Night, and the next I went to *Jonathan Wild's* House, but not meeting with him at home, I advertised the Lace that I had lost with a Reward of 15 Guineas, and no Questions ask'd; but hearing nothing of it, I went to *Jonathan's* House again, and then met with him at home, he desired me to give him a Description of the Persons that I suspected, which I did, as near as I could; and then he told me, *that he would make Enquiry, and bid me call again in two or three Days*, I did so, and then he said, *that he had heard something of my Lace, and expected to know more of the Matter in a very little Time*; I came to him again on that Day he was apprehended, (I think it was the 15th of *February*) I told him, that though I had advertised but 15 Guineas Reward, yet I would give 20 or 25 Guineas, rather than not have my Goods; *don't be in such a Hurry* says *Jonathan*, *I don't know but I may help you to it for less, and if I can I will; the Persons that have it are gone out of Town, I shall set them to quarrelling about it, and then I shall get it the cheaper*; on the 10th of
March

March he sent me Word, *that if I could come to him in Newgate, and bring 10 Guineas in my Pocket he would help me to the Lace;* I went, he desired me to call a Porter, but I not knowing where to find one, he sent a Person who brought one that appeared to be a *Ticket-Porter*: The Prisoner gave me a Letter, which he said was sent him as a Direction where to go for the Lace, but I could not read, and so I delivered it to the Porter; then he desired me to give the Porter the 10 Guineas, or else (he said) the Persons that had the Lace would not deliver it; I gave the Porter the Money, he went away and in a little time returned, and brought me a Box that was seal'd up, but not the same that was lost, I opened it and found all my Lace but one Piece. Now Mr. *Wild*, says I, what must you have for your Trouble? *not a Farthing*, says he, *not a Farthing for me; I don't do these things for worldly Interest, but only for the Good of poor People that have met with Misfortunes; as for the Piece of Lace that is missing, I hope to get it for you e'er be long, and I don't know but that I may help you not only to your Money again, but to the Thief too, and if I can, much good may it do you; and as you are a good Woman and a Widow, and a Christian, I desire nothing of you but your Prayers, and for them*

I shall be thankful: I have a great many Enemies, and God knows what may be the Consequence of this Imprisonment.

THE Fact suggested in the Indictment was undoubtedly fully proved by this Deposition, and though the Fact happened in *Newgate*, and after his Confinement, yet it still continued as much and as great a Crime as if it had been done before; the Law therefore condemned him upon it, but if he had even escaped this, there were other Facts of a like Nature, which inevitably would have destroyed him; for the last Years of his Life instead of growing more prudent, he undoubtedly became less so, for the Blunders committed in this Fact, were very little like the Behaviour of *Jonathan*, in the first Years in which he carried on this Practice, when no body behaved with greater Caution, as no body ever had so much Reason to be cautious; and though he had all along great Enemies, yet he conducted his Affairs so, that the Law could not possibly lay hold of him, nor his Excuses be easily detected, even in respect of Honesty it self. When he was brought up to the Bar to receive Sentence, he appeared to be very much dejected, and when the usual Question was proposed to him; *What have you to say, why Judgment of Death should not pass upon you?* he spoke with

with a very feeble Voice in the following Terms.

MY Lord, I hope I may even in the sad Condition in which I stand, pretend to some little Merit in respect to the Service I have done my Country, in delivering it from some of the greatest Pests with which it was ever troubled; my Lord, I have brought many bold and daring Malefactors to just Punishment, even at the Hazard of my own Life, my Body being covered with Scars I received in these Undertakings; I presume, my Lord, to say, I have some Merit, because at the time the things were done, they were esteemed meritorious by the Government; and therefore I hope, my Lord, some Compassion may be shewn on the Score of those Services; I submit myself wholly to his Majesty's Mercy, and humbly beg a favourable Report of my Case. When Sir William Thomson, now one of the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, as Recorder of London pronounced Sentence of Death; he spoke particularly to Wild, put him in Mind of those Cautions he had had of going on in those Practices, rendered Capital by Law, made on purpose for preventing that infamous Trade of becoming Broker for Felony, and standing in the middle between the Felon and the Person injured, in order to receive a Premium for Red-

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drels,

dress; and when he had properly stated the Nature and Aggravations of his Crime, he exhorted him to make a better Use of that small Portion of Time, which the Tenderness of the Law of *England* allowed Sinners for Repentance, and desired he would remember this Admonition, tho' he had slighted others; as to the Report he told him, he might depend on Justice, and ought not to hope for more.

UNDER Conviction, no Man who appeared upon other Occasions to have so much Courage, ever shewed so little; he had constantly declin'd ever coming to Chappel, under Pretence of Lameness and Indisposition, when *Clergymen* took the Pains to visit him, and instruct him in those Duties which it became a dying Man to Practice; tho' he heard them without Interruption, yet he heard them coldly, and instead of desiring to be instructed on that Head, was continually suggesting Scruples and Doubts about a future State, asking impertinent Questions as to the State of Souls departed, and putting frequent Cases of the Reasonableness and Lawfulness of *Suicide*, where an ignominious Death was inevitable, and the thing was perpetrated only to avoid Shame; he was more especially swayed to such Notions he pretended, from the Examples of the famous

mous Heroes of Antiquity, who to avoid dishonourable Treatment, had given themselves a speedy Death; as such Discourses were what took up most of the Time between his Sentence and Death, so they occasioned some very useful Lectures upon this Head, from the charitable Divines who visited him; but tho' they wou'd have been of great Use in all such Cases for the future, yet being pronounced by Word of Mouth only, they are now totally lost. One Letter indeed was written to him by a learned Person on this Head, of which a Copy has been preserved, and it is with very great Pleasure that I give it to my Readers, it runs thus.

*A Letter from the Reverend Dr. ———
to Mr. WILD in Newgate.*

I AM very sorry, that after a Life so spent, as yours is notoriously known to have been, you should yet instead of repenting of your former Offences, continue to swell their Number even with greater; I pray God it be not the greatest of all Sins, affecting Doubts as to a future State, and whether you shall ever be brought to answer for your Actions in this Life, before a *Tribunal* in that which is to come.

' THE *Heathens* it must be owned, could
 ' have no Certainty as to the Immortality
 ' of the Soul, because they had no immedi-
 ' ate Revelation; for tho' the Reasons
 ' which incline us to the Belief of those two
 ' Points of future Existence and future Tri-
 ' bulation, be as strong as any of the Mo-
 ' tives are to other Points in natural Re-
 ' ligion; yet as none return from that Land
 ' of Darkness, or escape from the Shadow
 ' of Death, to bring News of what passeth
 ' in those Regions, whether all Men go so
 ' without a direct Revelation from the Al-
 ' mighty, no positive Knowledge could be
 ' had of Life in the World to come, which
 ' is therefore properly said, to be derived
 ' to us thro' *Christ Jesus*, who in plain
 ' Terms, and with that Authority which con-
 ' founded his Enemies; the *Scribes* and
 ' *Pharises* taught the Doctrine of a final
 ' Judgment, and by affording us the *Means*
 ' of *Grace*, raised in us at the same time the
 ' *Hopes of Glory*.

' THE Arguments therefore which might
 ' appear sufficient unto the *Heathens*, to
 ' justify killing themselves to avoid what
 ' they thought greater Evils, if they had
 ' any Force then, must have totally lost it
 ' now; indeed the far greater Number of
 ' Instances which *History* has transmitted to
 ' us,

‘ us, shew that *Self-Murder* even then pro-
‘ ceeded from the same Causes as at present,
‘ viz. *Rage, Dispair, and Disappointment.*
‘ Wise Men in all Ages despised it, as a mean
‘ and despicable Flight from Evils, the Soul
‘ wanted courage and strength to bear. This
‘ has not only been said by *Philosophers,*
‘ but even by Poets too, which shews that
‘ it appeared a Notion, not only Rational,
‘ but *Heroick*; there are none so timorous,
‘ says *Martial,* but extremity of Want may
‘ force upon a voluntary Death, those few
‘ alone are to be accounted brave, who can
‘ support a Life of Evil and the pressing
‘ Load of Misery, without having Recourse
‘ to a Dagger. But if there were no more in
‘ it than the Dispute of which was the most
‘ gallant Act of the two, to suffer, or die, it
‘ would not deserve so much Consideration:
‘ The Matter with you is of far greater Im-
‘ portance, it is not how, or in what Manner
‘ you ought to die in this World, but how
‘ you are to expect Mercy and Happiness
‘ in that which is to come. This is your
‘ last Stake, and all that now can deserve
‘ your Regard; even hope is lost as to pre-
‘ sent Life, and if you make use of your
‘ Reason, it must direct you to turn all
‘ your Wishes and Endeavours towards at-
‘ taining Happiness in a future State; what
‘ then

‘ then Remains to be examined in Respect
 ‘ of this Question is, whether Persons who
 ‘ slay themselves can hope for Pardon or
 ‘ Happiness, in the Sentence of that Judge
 ‘ from whom there is no Appeal, and whose
 ‘ Sentence as it surpasses all Understanding,
 ‘ so is it executed immediately.

‘ IF we judge only from Reason, it seems
 ‘ that we have no right over a Life which
 ‘ we receive not from ourselves, or from our
 ‘ Parents, but from the immediate Gift of
 ‘ him who is the *Lord* thereof, and the Foun-
 ‘ tain of *Being* ; to take away our own Life
 ‘ then, is contradicting as far as we are able
 ‘ the Laws of Providence, and that Disposi-
 ‘ tion which his Wisdom has been pleased
 ‘ to direct ; it is as though we pretended
 ‘ to have more Knowledge or more Power
 ‘ than he ; and as to that Pretence which is
 ‘ usually made use of, that Life is meant as
 ‘ a Blessing, and that therefore when it be-
 ‘ comes an Evil, we may if we think fit re-
 ‘ sign it, it is indeed but a mere Sophistry.
 ‘ We acknowledge God to be infinite in all
 ‘ Perfections, and consequently in Wisdom
 ‘ and Power ; from the latter we receive our
 ‘ Existence in this Life, and as to the Mea-
 ‘ sure it depends wholly on the Former ; so
 ‘ that if we from the shallow Dictates of our
 ‘ Reason, contemptuously shorten that Term
 ‘ which

‘ which is appointed us by the Almighty,
‘ we thereby contradict all his Laws, throw
‘ up all Rights to his Promises, and by the
‘ very last Act we are capable of, put our-
‘ selves out of his Protection.

‘ THIS I say is the Prospect of the Fruits
‘ of *Suicide*, looked on with the Eye only of
‘ natural Religion, and the Opinion of Chri-
‘ stians is unanimous in this respect, and
‘ that Persons who willfully deprive them-
‘ selves of Life here, involve themselves al-
‘ so in Death everlasting. As to your par-
‘ ticular Case, in which you say, ’tis only
‘ making choice of one Death, rather than
‘ another ; there are also the strongest Rea-
‘ sons against it, the Law intends your Death,
‘ not only for the Punishment of your
‘ Crimes, but as an Example to deter others.
‘ The Law of God which hath command-
‘ ed, that the *Magistrates* should not bear
‘ the Sword in vain, hath given Power to
‘ denounce this Sentence against you, but
‘ that Authority which you would assume,
‘ defeats both the Law of the Land in its
‘ Intention, and is opposite also unto the
‘ Law of God ; add unto all this the Ex-
‘ ample of our blessed *Saviour*, who submit-
‘ ted to be hung upon a Tree, tho’ he had
‘ only need of praying to his Father to have
‘ sent him thousands of *Angels* ; yet chose
‘ he

‘ he the Death of a Thief, that the *Will* of
 ‘ God, and the Sentence even of an unrighteous Judge might be satisfied.

‘ LET then the Testimony of your own
 ‘ Reason, your Reverence towards God, and
 ‘ the Hopes which you ought to have in
 ‘ *Jesus Christ*, determine you to expect with
 ‘ Patience the Hour of your Dissolution,
 ‘ dispose you to fill up the short Interval
 ‘ which yet remains with sincere Repentance,
 ‘ and enable you to support your Sufferings
 ‘ with such a Christian Spirit of Resignation,
 ‘ as may purchase for you an eternal
 ‘ Weight of Glory. In the which you shall
 ‘ always be assisted with my Prayers to
 ‘ God.’

Who am, &c.

JONATHAN at last pretended to be overcome with the Reasons which had been offered to him on the Subject of Self-Murder; but it plainly appeared that in this he was a Hypocrite; for the Day before his Execution, notwithstanding the Keepers had the strictest Eye on him imaginable, some-body conveyed to him a Bottle of *Liquid Laudanum*, of which having taken a very large Quantity, he hoped it would prevent his dying at the Gallows; but as he had not been sparing in the Dose, so the Largeness of

of it made a speedy Alteration, which being perceived by his Fellow Prisoners, seeing he could not keep open his Eyes, at the time that Prayers were said to them as usual in the *Condemned Hole*; whereupon they walked him about, which first made him sweat exceedingly, and then very sick; at last he vomited, and they continuing still to lead him, he threw the greatest part of the *Laudanum* off from his Stomach; he continued notwithstanding that, very drowsy, stupid, and unable to do any thing but gasp out his Breath till it was stopped by the Halter. He went to Execution in a Cart, and the People instead of expressing any kind of Pity or Compassion for him, continued to throw Stones and Dirt all the Way he went along, reviling and cursing him to the last, and plainly shewed by their Behaviour, how much the Blackness and Notoriety of his Crimes had made him abhorred, and how little Tenderness the Enemies of Mankind meet with, when overtaken by the Hand of Justice. When he arrived at *Tyburn*, having at that time gathered a little Strength, Nature recovering from the Convulsions in which the *Laudanum* had thrown him; the Executioner told him, *he might take what time he pleas'd to prepare for Death*; he therefore sat down in the Cart for some small time, during which

which the People were so uneasy, that they called out incessantly to the Executioner to dispatch him, and at last threatned to tear him in Pieces, if he did not tie him up immediately ; such a furious Spirit was hardly ever discovered in the Populace upon such an Occasion ; they generally look on Blood with Tenderness, and behold even the Stroke of Justice with Tears, but so far were they from it in this Case, that had a Reprieve really come, 'tis highly questionable whether the Prisoner could ever have been brought back with safety, it being far more likely that as they wounded him dangerously in the Head in his Passage to *Tyburn*, they would have knocked him on the Head out-right, if they had attempted to have brought him back.

BEFORE I part with Mr. *Wild*, 'tis requisite that I inform you in Respect to his Wives, or those who were called his Wives, concerning whom so much Noise has been made : His first was a poor honest Woman who contented herself to live at *Woolverhampton*, with the Son she had by him, without ever putting him to any trouble, or endeavouring to come up to Town to take upon her the Stile and Title of *Madam Wild*, which the last Wife he liv'd with did with the greatest Affectation ; the next whom

whom he thought fit to dignify with the Name of his Consort, was the aforementioned Mrs. *Milliner*, with whom he continued in very great Intimacy after they liv'd separately, and by her means carried on the first of his Trade in detecting stolen Goods. The Third was one *Betty Man*, a Woman of the Town in her younger Years, but so suddenly struck with the Horreur of these Offences which she had committed, that on the Persuasion of a *Romish Priest* she turned *Papist*; and as she appeared in her Heart exceedingly devout and throughly Penitent for all her Sins, it is to be hoped such Penitence might merit Forgiveness; However erroneous the Principles of that *Church* might be, in the Communion of which she died; *Wild* even retained such an Impression of the Sanctity of this Woman after her Decease, and so great Veneration for her, that he ordered his Body to be buried next hers in *Pancras Church-Yard*, which his Friends saw accordingly performed, about two a-Clock in the Morning after his Execution. The next of Mr. *Wild's Sultana's* was *Sarah Perrin*, alias *Graystone* who surviv'd him; *Judith Numm* by whom he had a Daughter, who at the time of his Decease might be about ten Years old, both Mother and Daughter being then living. The sixth and last was the

no less celebrated Mrs. or Madam *Wild*, than he was remarkable by the Stile of *Wild the Thief-Catcher*, or by way of Irony of *honest Jonathan*; this remarkable Damsel before her first Marriage was known by the Name of *Mary Brown*, afterwards by that of Mrs. *Dean*, being Wife to *Skull Dean* who was executed about the Year 1716 or 17 for House-breaking; some malicious People have reported that *Jonathan* was accessory to the Hanging him, merely for the Sake of the Reward, and the Opportunity of taking his Relict; who whatever Regard she might have for her first Husband, is currently reported to have been so much affected with the Misfortunes that happened to the latter, that she twice attempted to make away with herself, after she had the News of his being under Sentence; however, by this his last Lady he left no Children, and but two by his three other Wives, who living at the time of his Decease.

As to the Person of the Man it was homely to the greatest Degree; there being something remarkably villainous in his Face, which Nature had imprinted in stronger Terms, than perhaps she ever did upon any other; however, he was strong and active, a Fellow of prodigious Boldness and Resolution, which made the Pusillanimity shewn at his

his Death more remarkable; in his Life time he was not at all shy in his owning his Profession, but on the contrary bragged of it upon all Occasions; into which perhaps he was led by that ridiculous Respect which was paid him, and the Meaness of Spirit some Persons of Distinction were guilty of in talking to him freely. Common Report has swelled the Number of Malefactors executed thro' his means, to no less than one hundred and twenty; certain it is, that they were very numerous, as well in Reality as his own reckoning; the most remarkable of them being these, *White, Thurland, and Dunn*, executed for the Murder of Mrs. *Knap*, and robbing *Thomas Micklethwait*, Esq; *James Lincoln*, and *Robert Wilkinson*, for robbing and murdering *Peter Martin* the *Chelsea* Pensioner; but it must be noted that they denied the Murder even with their last Breath. *James Shaw* convicted by *Jonathan*, for the Murder of Mr. *Potts*, tho' he had been apprehended by others; *Humphry Angier* who died for robbing Mr. *Luen* the *City Marshall*, *John Levee* and *Matthew Flood*, for robbing the Honourable Mr. *Young* and Colonel *Cope*, of a Watch and other things of Value, *Richard Oakey* for robbing of Mr. *Betts* in *Fig-Lane*, *John Shepherd* and *Joseph Blake* for breaking the House

House of Mr. *Kneebone*, with many others, some of which, such as *John Malony*, and *Val. Carrick*, were of an older Date; and it has been said that there was a considerable Sum of Money due to him for his Share in the Apprehension of several Felonies at the very Time of his Death, which happened as I have told you at *Tyburn* on *Monday* the 24th of *May*, 1725. being then about forty two Years of Age.



*The LIFE of JOHN LITTLE, an
House-breaker and private Thief.*



THE Papers which I have in Relation to this Malefactor, speak nothing with Regard to his Parents and Education: The first Thing that I meet with concerning him, is his being at Sea, where he was at the Time my Lord *Torrington*, then *Sir George Bing*, went up the *Mediterranean*, as also in my Lord *Cobham's* Expedition to *Vigo*; and such a Nack he got to plundering in these Expeditions, that he could never bring himself afterwards

terwards to thinking it was a Sin to plunder any Body, which wicked Principle he did not fail to put in Practice by stealing every Thing he could lay his Hands on; when he afterwards went into *Sweden* in a Merchant Ship, and indeed there is too common a Case for Men who have been innur'd to robbing, and maletreating an Enemy, now and then to receive the same Talents at home, and make free with the Subjects of their own Sovereign, as they did with those of the Enemy. Weak Minds sometimes do not really so well apprehend the Difference, but Thieve under little Apprehension of Sin, provided they can escape the Gallows. And others of better Uunderstandings acquire such an Appetite to Rapine, that they are not afterwards able to lay it aside, so that I cannot help observing, that it would be more prudent for Officers to encourage their Men to do their Duty against the Enemy from generous Motives of serving their Country, and vindicating its Rights, rather than proposing the Hopes of Gain, and the Reward arising from destroying those unhappy Wretches who fall under their Power; but enough of this, and perhaps too much here. Let us return again to him of whom we are now speaking: When he came home into *England*, he fell into ill Company, particularly of *John Bewle, alias Hanley,*

Hanley, and one *Belcher*, who it is to be supposed inclined him to the idle Discourse first to look upon robbing as a very entertaining Employment, in which they met with abundance of Pleasure, and might, with a little Care, avoid all the Danger: This was Language very likely to work upon *Little's* Disposition, who had a great Inclination to all Sorts of Debauchery, and no Sort of Religious Principles to check him; and over above all this, was unhappily married to a Woman of the same Way of Living, One who got her Bread by walking the Streets and picking of Pockets; and therefore instead of persuading her Husband to quit such Company as she saw him inclined to follow, on the Contrary encourag'd, prompted and offer'd her Assistance in the Expedition she knew they were going about: And thus *Little's* Road to Destruction lay open for him to rush into without any *Let*, or the least Check upon his vicious Inclinations.

HE and his wicked Companions became very busy in the Practice of their Employment, they disturbed most of the Roads near *London*, and were particularly good Customers to *Sadler's-Wells*, *Bell-Size*, and the rest of the little Places of Junketting and Entertainment, which are most frequented in the Neighbourhood of this Metropolis.

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This Method upon such Occasions was to observe who was drunkest, and to watch such Persons when they came out, suffering them to walk a little before them till they came to a proper Place, then jostling them, and next picking a Quarrel with them, they fell to fighting, and in Conclusion, pick'd their Pockets, snatch'd their Hats and Whigs, or took any other Methods that were the most likely to obtain something wherewith to support their Riots in which they spent every Night ; at last, finding their Comings in not so large as they expected, they took next to House-breaking, in which they had somewhat better Luck ; But their Expences continuing still too large for even their numerous Booties to supply them, they were continually pushed on upon hazarding their Lives, and hardly had any Respite from the Crimes they committed, which, as they grew numerous, made them the more known, and consequently encreas'd the Danger. Those who make it their Business to apprehend such People, having had Intelligence of most of them, which is generally the first Step in the Road to *Hide-Park-Corner*.

It is remarkable that the Observation which most of all shocks Thieves, and convinces them at once both of the Certainty and Justice of a *Providence*, is this ; that the

the Money never thrives with them, which they amass by such unrighteous Dealings; that tho' they thieve continually, they are, notwithstanding that, always in Want, press'd on every Side with Fears and Dangers, and never at Liberty from the uneasy Apprehensions of having incur'd the Displeasure of God, as well as run themselves into the Punishments inflicted by the Law: To these general Terrors, there was added to *Little* the distracting Fears of a Discovery, from the rash and impetuous Tempers of his Associates, who were continually defrauding one another in their Shares of the Booty, and then quarrelling, fighting, threatening, and what not, till *Little* sometimes at the Expence of his own Allotment, reconciled and put them in Humour: Nor were his fatal Conjectures on this Head without Cause; for *Bewle*, though as *Little* always declar'd he had drawn him into such Practices, put him into an Information he made for the Sake of procuring a Pardon. A few Days after *Little* was taken into Custody, and at the next *Sessions* indicted for breaking open the House of one Mr. *Deer*, and taking from thence several Parcels of Goods express'd in the Indictment: Upon his Trial the Prosecutor swore to the Lose of his Goods; and *Bewle*, who had been a Confe-

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derate in the Robbery, gave Testimony also, as to the Manner in which they were taken. *Little*, as he was conscious of this Guilt, made a very poor Defence, pretending that he was utterly unacquainted with this *Bewle*, hoping that if he could persuade the Jury to that, the Prosecutor's Evidence, as it did not affect him personally, might not convict him; but his Hope was vain, for *Bewle* confirm'd what he said by so many Circumstances, that the Jury gave Credit to his Testimony, and thereupon found the Prisoners guilty. *Little*, though he entertained scarce any Hopes of Success, moved the Court earnestly to grant him Transportation; but as they gave him no Encouragement upon the Motion, so it must be acknowledged, he did not amuse himself with any vain Expectations.

During the Time he remain'd under Conviction, he behav'd with great Marks of Penitence, assisted constantly at the publick Devotions in the Chappel, and prayed often and fervently in the Place where he was confined; made no Scruple of owning the Falshood of what he had asserted upon his Trial; and acknowledging the Justice of that Sentence which doomed him to Death; he seem'd to be under a very great Concern, least his Wife who was addicted to such Practices,

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should

should follow him to the same Place; in order to prevent which, as far as it lay in his Power, he wrote to her in the most pressing Terms he was able, intreating her to take Notice of that melancholy Condition in which he then lay, miserable through the Wants under which he suffered, and still more miserable from the Apprehensions of a shameful Death, and the Doubt of being plung'd also into everlasting Torment; having finish'd this Letter, he began to withdraw as much as possible his Thoughts from this World, and to fix them wholly where they ought to have been placed throughout his Life, praying to God for his Assistance, and endeavouring to render himself worthy of it by a sincere Repentance; in fine, as he had been enormously Wicked through the Course of his Life, so he was extraordinarily Penitent throughout the Course of his Misfortunes, deeply affected from the Apprehensions of temporal Punishment, but apparently more afflicted with the Sense of his Sins, and the Fear of that Punishment which the Justice of *Almighty God* might inflict upon him; and therefore, to the Day of his Execution, he employed every Moment in crying for Mercy, and with wonderful Piety and Resignation, submitted to that Death which the Law had appointed

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ed for his Offences, on the 13th of *September*, 1725, at *Tyburn*; but as to his own Age, that I am not able to say any thing of, it not being mentioned in the Papers before me.



The LIFE of JOHN PRICE, a House-breaker and private Thief.



AMONGST the ordinary kind of People in *England*, Debauchery is so common, and the true Principles of honesty and a just Life so little understood, that we need not be surprized at the numerous Sessions we see so often held in a Year at the *Old-Baily*, and the Multitudes which in Consequence of them are yearly executed at *Tyburn*. Fraud which is only robbing within the Limits of the Law, is at this Time of Day, especially amongst the common People, thought a Sign of Wit, and esteemed as Fair a Branch of their Calling as their Labours. *Mechanicks* of all Sorts practise it, without shewing any great Concern to hide it, especially from their own Family; in which on the Contrary, they

encourage and admire it. Their Children instead of being reprov'd for their first Essays in Dishonesty, are called *smart Boys*, and their Tricks related to Neighbours and Visitors as Proofs of their *Genius* and *Spirit*; yet when the Lads proceed in the same Way, after being grown up a little, nothing too harsh, or too severe can be inflicted upon them in the Opinion of these very Parents, as if cheating at *Chuck*, and filching of *Marbles* were not as real Crimes in Children of eight Years old, as stealing of Handkerchiefs and picking of Pockets, in Boys of Thirteen or Fourteen; but with the Vulgar 'tis the Punishment annexed to it, and not the Crime, that is dreaded; and the Commandments against *Stealing* and *Murder* would be as readily broke, as those against *Swearing* and *Sabbath-breaking*, if the Civil Power had not set up a Gallows at the End of them. *John Price* of whom we are now to speak, has very little preserv'd concerning him in the Memoirs that lie before me, all that I am able to say of him, is that by Employment he was a *Sailor*, and in the Course of his Voyages had addicted himself to the Gratifying such Inclinations, as he had towards Drink or Women, without the least Concern as to the Consequences, here or hereafter; he said, indeed, that *falling*

JOHN PRICE, a House-breaker. 77

ling sick at Oporto in Portugal, and becoming very weak, and almost incapable of moving himself, the Fear of Death gave him Apprehensions of what the Justice of God might inflict on him thro' the Number and Heinousness of his Sins, which at last made so great an Impression on his Mind, that he put up a Solemn Vow to God, of thorough Repentance and Amendment, if it should please him to raise him once more from that Bed of Sickness, and restore him again to his former Health; but when he had recovered it, his late good Inclinations were forgotten, and the evil Examples he had before his Eyes of his Companions, who according to the Custom in Portugal addicted themselves to all sorts of Lewdness and Debauchery, prevail'd; he returned like the Dog to the Vomit, and his last State was worse than his first. On his return into England, he had still a Desire towards the same sensual Enjoyments, was ever coveting Debauches of Drink, accompanied with the Conversation of lewd Women; but caring little for Labour, and finding no honest Employment to support these Expences into which his Lusts oblig'd him to run, he therefore abandon'd all Thoughts of Honesty at once, and took to Thieving immediately, as the proper Method of supporting him in his Pleasures;

when this Resolution was once taken, it was no difficult Thing to find Companions to engage with him, Houses to receive him, and Women to carress him; on the contrary, it seem'd difficult for him to choose out of the Number offered, and as soon as he had made the Choice, he and his Associates fell immediately to the Practice of that miserable Trade they had chosen; how long they continued to practise it before they fell into the Hands of Justice, I am not able to say, but from several Circumstances it seems probable, that there was no long Time intervening; for *Price*, in Company with *Sparks*, and *James Cliff*, attempted the House of the *Duke of Leeds*, and thrusting up the Sash-window, *James Cliff* was put into the Parlour, and handed out some Things to *Price* and *Sparks*, but it seems they were seen by Mr. *Best*, and upon their being apprehended, *Cliff* confessed the whole Affair, own'd that it was concerted between them, and that himself handed out the Things to his Companions, *Price* and *Sparks*. At the ensuing Sessions, *Price* was tried for that Offence, and upon the Evidence of Mr. *Best*, the Confession of *James Cliff*, and *Benjamin Belings* deposing, that he himself at the Time of his being apprehended, acknowledged that he had been in
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Company with *Cliff* and *Sparks*; the Jury found him Guilty, as they did *Cliff* also, upon his own Confession. Under Sentence, he seem'd to have a just Sense of his preceeding wicked Life, and was under no small Apprehensions concerning his Repentance, since it was forced and not voluntary; however, the Ordinary having satisfied his Scruples of this Sort, as far as he was able, recommended it to him, without oppressing his Conscience with curious Fears and unnecessary Scruples, to apply himself to Prayer and other Duties of a Dying Man; to which he seem'd inclinable enough, but complained that *James Cliff*, who was in the condemned Hole, prevented both him and the rest of the Criminals from their Duty, by extravagant Speeches, wild and prophane Expressions, raving after the Woman he had convers'd with, and abusing every Body who came near him, which partly arose from the Temper of that unhappy Person, and was also owing to his Indisposition of Body, labouring all the while he lay in the Hole under a high Fever. Another great Misfortune to *Price*, in the Condition in which he was, consisted in his Incapacity to supply the Want of the *Minister's* Instructions when from Chappel, through his Incapacity of Reading; however, he endea-

voured to make up for it as well as he could, by attending constantly at Chappel, and not only behaving gravely at Prayers, but listening attentively at Sermon, by which means he constantly brought away a great Part, and sometimes lost very little out of his Memory of what he heard there; in a Word, all the Criminals who were at this time under Sentence (excepting *Cliff*) seemed perfectly dispos'd to make a just Use of that time, which the peculiar Clemency of the *English* Law affords to Malefactors, that they may make their Peace with God, and by their Sufferings under the Hands of Men, prevent eternal Condemnation; they expressed also a great Satisfaction that their Crimes were of an ordinary Nature, and that they had no very remarkable Criminal amongst them, to occasion staring and whispering when they came to *Chappel*, a thing they were very much afraid of, in as much as it would have hindered their Devotions, and discomposed the Frame of their Minds. At the same time with *Price*, there lay under Condemnation one *Woolridge*, who was convicted for entering the House of *Elizabeth Jell* in the Night-time, with a felonious Intent to take away the Goods of *Daniel Brooks*, but it seems he was apprehended, before he could so much as open the Chest
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JOHN PRICE, a House-breaker. 81

he had designed to rob. The Thieves in *Newgate* usually take upon them to be very learned in the Laws, especially in respect to what relates to Evidence, and they had perswaded this unhappy Man, that no Evidence which could be produced against him, would affect his Life; there is no doubt, but his Conviction came therefore upon him with greater Surprise, and certain it is, that such Practices are of the utmost ill Consequence to those unhappy Malefactors; however, when he found that Death was inevitably, he by Degrees began to reconcile himself thereto, and as he happened to be the only one amongst the Criminals who could read, so he with great Diligence applied himself, to supply that Deficiency in his Fellow-Prisoners; and even after he was seized with Sickneſs, which brought him exceedingly low, he ceaſed not to ſtrive againſt the Weakneſs of his Body, that he might do good to his Fellow-Convicts; in a Word, no Temptations to Drink, nor the Deſire of pleaſing thoſe who vend it, Circumſtances which too often induce others in that Condition to be guilty of ſtrange Enormities, ever had force enough to obtrude on them more than was neceſſary to ſupport Life, and to keep up ſuch a Supply of Spirits as enabled them to perform their Duties;

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from whence it happened that the Approach of Death did not affect them, with any extraordinary Fear, but both suffered with Resignation on the same Day with the former Criminals at *Tyburn*.



The LIFE of FOSTER SNOW, a Murderer.



HERE cannot be any thing more dangerous in our Conduct thro' human Life, than a too ready Compliance with any Inclination of the Mind, whether it be lustful or of an irascible Nature, either transports us on the least Check into wicked Extravagancies, which are fatal in their Consequences, and suddenly overwhelm us both with Shame and Ruin. There is hardly a Page in any of these Volumes, but carries in it Examples which are so many strong Proofs of the Veracity of this Observation. But with respect to the Criminal we are now speaking of, his is yet a more extraordinary Case than any of the rest; and therefore I shall in the Course of my Relation, make such Remarks as to
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me seem most likely to render his Misfortunes, and my Account of them useful to my Readers. *Foster Snow*, was the Son of very honest and reputable Parents, who gave him an Education suitable to their Station in Life, and which was also the same they intended to breed him up to, *viz.* that of a *Gardiner*, in which Capacity, or as a *Butler*, he had serv'd abundance of *Persons* of *Quality*, with an untainted Reputation. About fourteen Years before the time of his Death, he married and set up an *Ale-house*, wherein his Conduct was such, that he gained the esteem and respect of his Neighbours, being a Man who was without any great Vices, except only Passions, in which he too much indulged himself, and whenever he was in Drink, would launch out into unaccountable Extravagancies, both in his Words and Actions; however it is likely, this proceeded in a great Measure from Family Uneasinesses, which undoubtedly had for a long time discomposed him before his committing that Murder for which he died; tho' when sober, he might have Wisdom enough to conceal his Resentment, yet when the Fumes of Wine had clouded his Reason, he (as it is no uncommon Case) gave vent to his Passion, and treated with Undistinguished Surlinefs all who came in his

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Way.

Way. Now as to the Source of these Domestick Discontents, it is apparent from the Papers I have, that they were partly occasioned by Family Mismanagement, and partly from the haughty and imprudent Carriage of the unfortunate Person who fell by his Hands; for it seems the Woman whom *Snow* married, had a Daughter by a former Husband, and this Daughter she brought home to live with the deceased Mr. *Snow*, who was so far from being angry therewith, or treating her with that Coldness which is usual to Fathers-in-Law, that on the contrary, he gave her the sole Direction of his House, put every thing into her Hands; and was so fond of the young Daughter she had, that greater Tenderness could not have been shewn to the Child, if she had been his own. It seems the deceased Mr. *Rawlins* had found a Way, to ingratiate himself with both the Mother and Daughter, but especially the latter, that although his Circumstances were not extraordinary, they gave him very extensive Credit; and as he had a Family of Children, they sometimes suffer'd them to get little Matters about their House; and thereby so effectually entailed them upon them, that at last they were never out of it. Mr. *Snow* it seems, took Umbrage at this, and spared not to tell Mr. *Rawlins* flatly, *he did*
not

not desire he should come thither, which was frequently answer'd by the other, in opprobrious and undervaluing Terms, which gave Mr. Snow uneasiness enough, considering that the Man at the same Time ow'd him Money; and this Carriage on both Sides having continued for a pretty while, and broken out in several Instances, it at last made Mr. Snow so uneasy, that he could not forbear expressing his Resentment to his Wife and Family: But it had little Effect, they went on still at the same Rate; Mr. Rawlin's was frequently at the House, his Children received no less Assurances there than before; and, in short, every thing went on in such a Manner, that poor Mr. Snow had enough to aggravate the Suspicions which he entertained. At last it unfortunately happen'd that he having got a little more Liquor in his Head than ordinary, Mr. Rawlins coming into the House, he ask'd him for his Money, and upbraided him with his Treatment in very harsh Terms, to which the other making no less gross Replies, it kindled such a Resentment in this unfortunate Man, that after several Threats which sufficiently express'd the Rancour of his Disposition, he snatch'd up a Case Knife, and pursuing the unfortunate Mr. Rawlins, gave him therewith a mortal Wound, of which he instantly died. For this Fact he was

was apprehended and committed to *Newgate*. At the next Sessions he was indicted, first for the Murder of *Thomas Rawlins*, by giving him with a Knife a mortal Wound of the Breadth of an Inch, and of the Depth of seven Inches, whereby he immediately expir'd. He was a second Time indicted on the *Statute of Stabbing*. And a third Time also on the *Coroner's Inquest*, for the same Offence: Upon each of which Indictments the Evidence was so clear, that the *Jury*, notwithstanding some Witnesses which he call'd to his Reputation, and which indeed deposed that he was a very civil, honest, and peaceable Neighbour, found him guilty on them all, and he thereupon received Sentence of Death; in passing which, the then *Deputy Recorder*, Mr. *Raby*, took particular Notice of the Heinousness of the Crime of Murder, and expatiated on the Equity of the *Divine Law*, whereby it was required that *he who had shed Man's Blood, by Man should his Blood be shed*; and from thence took Occasion to warn the Prisoner from being misled into any delusive Hopes of Pardon, since the Nature of his Offence was such as he could not reasonably expect it from the *Royal Breast*, which had ever been cautious of extending Mercy to those who had denied it unto their Fellow Subjects. Under Sentence of Death,
this

this unhappy Man behav'd himself very devoutly, and with many Signs of true Penitence. He was from the first very desirous to acquaint himself with the true Nature of that Crime which he had committed, and finding it at once repugnant to Religion, and contrary even to the Dictates of human Nature, he began to loath himself and his own Cruelty, crying out frequently when alone, *oh! Murder! Murder!* it is the Guilt of that great Sin which distracts my Soul. When at *Chappel* he attended with great Devotion to the Duties of *Prayer* and *Service* there; but when ever the Commandments came to be repeated, at the Words, *Thou shalt do no Murder*, he would tremble, turn pale, shed Tears, and with a violent Agitation of Spirit, pray to *God* to pardon him that great Offence. To say Truth, never any Man seem'd to have a truer Sense or a more quick feeling of his Crimes, than this unhappy Man testified during his Confinement: His Heart was so far from being hardened, as is too commonly the Case with those Wretches who fall into the same Condition; that he on the Contrary afflicted himself continually, and without ceasing, as fearing that all his Penitence would be but too little in the Sight of *God*, for destroying his Creature, and taking away a Life which he could not restore.

Amidst

Amidst these Apprehensions, cover'd with Terrors and Sinking under the Weight of his Afflictions, he received his spiritual Assistance of the *Ordinary* and other *Ministers*, with much Meekness, and it is to be hoped with great Benefit; since they encouraged him to rely on the Mercy of God, and not by an unseasonable Diffidence to add the throwing away his own Soul by Despair, to the taking away the Life of another in his Wrath. What added to the heavy Load of his Sorrows, was the unkindness of his Wife, who neither visited him in his Misfortunes, and administered but indifferently to his Wants. It seems the Quarrels they had, had so im-bittered them towards one another, that very little of that Friendship was to be seen in either, which makes the Marriage Bond easy, and the Yoke of Matrimony light. His Complaints with Respect of her, occasioned some Enquiries, Whether he were not jealous of her Person? Such Suspicions being generally the Cause of married Peoples greatest Dislikes. What he spoke on this Head was exceedingly modest, far from that Rancour which might have been expected from a Man whom the World insinuated had brought himself to Death by a too violent Resentment of what related to her Conduct; tho'

no such Thing appear'd from what he declar'd to those who attended him: He said, *he was indeed uneasy at the too large Credit she gave to the deceased, but that it was her Purse only that he entertained Suspensions; and that as he was a dying Man, he had no ill Thoughts of her in any other Way:* But with Regard to his Daughter, he express'd a very great Dislike to her Behaviour, and said, *her Conduct had been such as forc'd her Husband to leave her; and that though he had treated her with the greatest Kindness and Affection, yet such was the untowardness of her Disposition, that he had received but very sorry Returns.* However, he to the last expressed great Uneasiness, lest after his Decease his little Grand-daughter in-Law might suffer in her Education, of which he intended to have taken the greatest Care: His Dislike to the Mother being far enough from giving him any Aversion to the Child. It seems from the Time he had taken it home he had placed his Affections strongly upon it, and did not withdraw them even to the Hour of his Departure. As Death grew near, he was afflicted with a violent Disease, which reduced him so low, that he was incapable of coming to the *Chappel*; and when it abated a little, it yet left his Head so weak,

weak, that he seem'd to be somewhat distracted, crying out in *Chappel* the *Sunday* before he died, like one grievously disturb'd in Mind, and expressing the greatest Agonies under the Apprehensions of his own Guilt, and the strict Justice of him to whom he was shortly to answer. However, he forgave with all outward Appearance of Sincerity, all who had been in any Degree accessory to his Death: Being carried in a *Mourning Coach* to the Place of Execution, he appeared somewhat more compos'd than he had been for some Time before. He told the People, *that except the Crime for which he died, he had never been guilty of any thing which might bring him within the Fear of meeting with such a Death.* And in this Disposition of Mind he suffered at *Tyburn* on the 3d Day of *November 1725*, being about fifty five Years of Age. Immediately after his Death, a Paper was published under the Title of his Case full of Circumstances, tending to extenuate his Guilt, but such as no way appeared upon his Trial.

THE Court of *Old Baily* at the next *Sessions* taking this Paper into their Consideration, were of Opinion that it reflected highly on the Justice of those who tried him, and therefore ordered the *Printer* to attend them

them to answer for this Offence; accordingly he attended the next Day, and being told that the Court were highly displeased with his publishing a Thing of that Nature, in order to misrepresent the Justice of their Proceedings, and that they were ready to punish him for his Contempt in the aforesaid Publication of such a Libel; Mr. *Leech* thought fit to prevent it by making his most humble Submission, and asking Pardon of the Court for his Offence, assuring them that it proceeded only from Inadvertency, and promising never to print any Thing of the like sort again, whereupon the Court were graciously pleased to dismiss him only with a Reprimand, and to admonish others of the same Profession, that they should be cautious for the future of doing any thing which might reflect in any Degree upon the Proceedings had before them.





The Life of JOHN WHALEBONE, *alias*
WELBONE, *a Thief, &c.*



HIS Malefactor was born in the Midst of the City of *London*, in the Parish of *St. Dionis Back Church*; his Parents were Persons in but mean Circumstances, who however strained them to the uttermost to give this their Son a tolerable Education; they were especially careful to instruct him in the Principles of *Religion*, and were therefore under an excessive Concern, when they found that neglecting all other Business, he endeavoured only to qualify himself for the *Sea*: However, finding his Inclinations so strong that Way, they got him on Board a Man of War, and procured such a Recommendation to the Captain, that he was treated with great Civility during the Voyage; and if he had had any Inclinations to have done well, might in all Probability have been much encouraged: But he after several Voyages to *Sea*, took it as strongly in his Head to go no more, as he had before to go, whether his Parents would

would or no. He then cried old Cloaths about the Streets; but not finding any great Encouragement in that Employment, he was easily drawn in by some wicked People of his Acquaintance, to take what they called the shortest Method of getting Money, which was, in plain *English*, to go on Thieving. He had very ill Luck in his new Occupation: For in six Weeks Time after his first setting out, he on the Information of one of his Companions, was apprehended, tried, convicted, and ordered for *Transportation*.

It was his Fortune to be deliver'd to a Planter in *South Carolina*, who employed him to labour in his Plantations, afforded him good Meet and Drink, and treated him rather better than our *Farmers* treat their Servants here; which leads me to say something concerning the Usage such People met with, when carried, as the Law directs, to our Plantations, in order to rectify certain gross Mistakes, as if *Englishmen* abroad had totally lost all Humanity, and treated their Fellow-Creatures and Fellow-Countrymen as Slaves, or as Brutes.

THE Colonies on the Continent of *America*, are those which now take off the greatest Part of those who are transported for Felony from *Britain*, most of the *Island Colonies* having long ago refused to receive them

them. The Countries into which they are now sold, trading chiefly in such kind of Commodities, as are produced in *England*, unless it be *Tobacco*: The Employment therefore of Persons thus sent over, is either in attending *Husbandry*, or in the Culture of the Plant, which we have before mentioned; being thereby expos'd to no more Hardships than they would have been oblig'd to have undergone at home, in order to have got an honest Livelyhood; so that unless their being oblig'd to work for their Living, is to pass for the great Hardship, I do not conceive where it can else lie, since the Law, rather than shed the Blood of Persons for small Offences, or where they appear not to have gone on for a Length of Time in them, by its Lenity, changes the Punishment of Death into sending them amongst their own Countrymen at a Distance from their ill-disposed Companions, who might probably seduce them to commit the same Offences again; and directs also that this Banishment shall be for such a Length of Time, as may be suitable to the Guilt of the Crime, and render it impracticable for them on their Return to meet with their old Gangs and Acquaintance, making by this Means a happy Mixture both of Justice and Clemency, dealing mildly with them for the Offence already committed,

and

and endeavouring to put it even out of their own Power by fresh Offences, to draw a heavier Judgment upon themselves. But to return to this *Whalebone*,

THE kind Usage of his Master, the easiness of the Life which he lived, and the certainty of Death if he attempted to return home, could not all of them prevail upon him to lay aside the Thoughts of coming back again to *London*; and there giving himself up to those sensual Delights which he had formerly enjoyed. Opportunities are seldom wanting where Men incline to make Use of them; especially to one who had been bred as he was to the Sea: So that in a Year and half after his being settled there, he took such Ways of recommending himself to a certain *Captain*, as induced him to bring him home, and set him safe on Shoar near *Harwich*: He travelled on Foot up to *London*, and was in Town but a very few Days before being accidentally taken Notice of by a Person who knew him, he caused him to be apprehended, and at the next *Sessions* at the *Old Baily*, he was convicted of such illegal Return, and order'd for *Execution*. At first he pretended that he thought it no Crime for a Man to return into his own Country, and therefore did not think himself bound to repent of that whatever Arguments the *Ordinary*

may made use of to persuade him to a Sense of his Guilt I know not. But because this is an Error, into which such People are very apt to fall; and as there wants not some of the *Vulgar* who take it for a great Hardship also making it one of those Topicks, upon which they take Occasion to harrangue against the Severity of a Law that they do not understand; I think it will not therefore be improper to explain it.

TRANSPORTATION is a Punishment whereby the *British Law* commutes for Offences which would otherways be Capital, and therefore a Contract is plainly presumed between every *Felon* Transported, and the Court by whose Authority he is ordered for Transportation, that the said *Felon* shall remain for such a term of Years as the Law Directs, without returning into any of the *King's European Dominions*, and the Court plainly acquaints the *Felon*, that if in breach of his Agreement he shall so Return, that in such Case the Contract shall be deemed void, and the capital Punishment remaining uncommuted by such Default shall again take Place. To say then that a Person who enters into an Agreement like this, and is perfectly acquainted with its Conditions, knowing that no less than his Life must be forfeited by the Breach of them, and yet wilfully breaks

breaks them, to say that such a Person as this is guilty of no Offence, must in the Opinion of every Person of common Understanding be the greatest Absurdity that can be asserted; and to call that Severity, which only is the Laws taking its Forfeit, is a very great Impropriety, and proceeds from a foolish and unreasonable Compassion. This I think so plain that nothing but Prepossession or Stupidity can hinder People from comprehending it. As to *Whalebone*, when Death approached, he laid aside all these Excuses, and applied himself to what was much more material; the making a proper Use of that little Time which yet remained for Repentance: He acknowledged all the Crimes which he had committed in the former Part of his Life, and the Justice of that Sentence by which he had been condemned to Transportation; and having warn'd the People at his Execution, to avoid of all Things being led into ill Company. He suffered with much seeming Penitence, together with the aforementioned Malefactors at *Tyburn*, being then about thirty eight Years of Age.



*The Life of JAMES LITTLE, a Foot-
Pad and Highway-man.*

JAMES Little, was a Person descended from Parents very honest and industrious, though of small Fortune; they bred him up with all the Care they were able, and when he came to a fit Age, put him out to an honest Employment, but he in his Youth having taken a peculiar Fancy to his Father's Profession of a *Painter*, he thereto attained in so great a Degree, as to be able to earn Twelve or Fifteen Shillings in a Week, when he thought fit to work hard, but that was very seldom, and he soon contracted such a Hatred to working at all, that associating with some wild young Fellows, he kept himself continually drunk and mad, not caring what he did for Money, so he supplied himself with enough to procure him Liquor; amongst the rest of those debauch'd Persons with whom he convers'd; there was especially one *Sandford*, with whom he was peculiarly intimate, this Fel-

Fellow was a *Soldier*, of a rude, loose Disposition, and who took a particular Delight in making Persons whom he convers'd with, as bad as himself; having one *Sunday* therefore, got *Little* into his Company, and drank him to such a Pitch, that he had scarce any Sense, he next began to open to him a new Method of Living, as he called it, which was neither more than less than going on the Highway; *Little* was so far gone in his Cups, that he did not so much as know what he was saying; at last *Sandford* rose up, and told him, *it was a good Time now to go out upon their Attempts*, upon which *Little* got up too, and went out with him; they had not gone far before the *Soldier* drew out a Pair of Pistols, and robbed two or three Persons, while *Little* stood by so very drunk, that he was both unable to have hurt the Persons, or to have defended himself, he said, *he robbed no more with the Soldier*, who was soon after taken up and hang'd, at the same Time with *Jonathan Wild*; yet the sad Fate of his Companion had very little Effect upon this unhappy Lad, he fell afterwards into an Acquaintance, with some of *John Shepherd's* Mistresses, and they continually dinning in his Ears, what great Exploits that famous Robber had committed, they unfortunately prevailed upon

him to go again into the same Way, but it was just as fatal to him, as it had been to his Companion; for *Little* having robbed one *Lionel Mills* in open Fields, put him in Fear, and taken from him a Handkerchief, three Keys, and sixteen Shillings in Money, not contented with which, he pulled the Turn-Over off from his Neck hastily, and thereby had like to have strangled him; for this Offence the Man pursued him with unwearied Diligence, and he being taken up there-upon, was quickly after charg'd with another Robbery, committed on one *Mr. Evans*, in the same Month, who lost a Cane, three Keys, and twenty Pounds in Money; on these two Offences he was severally convicted, at the next Sessions at the *Old-Baily*; and having no Friends, could therefore entertain little Expectation of Pardon; especially considering how short a Time it was since he received Mercy before. Being under Sentence at the same time with the *Soldier* before-mentioned, and *Jonathan Wild*, and discharged then, upon his making certain Discoveries. He pretended to much Penitence and Sorrow, but it did not appear in his Behaviour, having been guilty of many Levities when brought up to Chappel, to which perhaps the Crowds of Strangers, who from an unaccountable Humour desire to be
pre-

present on those melancholy Occasions, did not a little contribute; for at other times it must be own'd, he did not behave himself in any such Manner, but seem'd rather grave and willing to be instructed, of which he had indeed sufficient want, knowing very little, but of Debauchery and Vice; however, he reconciled himself by Degrees to the Thoughts of Death, and behaved with Tranquility enough, during that small Space that was left him to prepare for it. At the Place of Execution, he look'd less astonished, tho' he spoke much less to the People than the rest, and died seemingly compos'd, at the same time with the other Malefactors, *Snow*, and *Whalebone*, being at the time of his Execution in his Seventeenth Year.





*The LIFE of JOHN HAMP, Foot-
Pad and Highway-man.*



HIS unhappy Person *John Hamp*, was born both of honest and reputable Parents in the Parish of *St. Giles's* without *Cripplegate*, they took abundance of Pains in his Education, and the Lad seemed in his juvenil Years to deserve it; he was a Boy of abundance of Spirit, and his Friends at his own Request put him out Apprentice, to a Man whose Trade it was to Lath Houses, he did not stay out his Time with him; but being one Evening with some drunken Companions, at an Ale-House near the *Iron Gate* by the *Tower*, three of them *Sailors* on board a Man of War, there being at that time a great want of Men; a Squadron being fitting out for the *Baltick*, these *Sailors* therefore observing all the Company very drunk, put it into their Heads to make an Agreement for their going altogether this Voyage to the North; Drink wrought powerfully in their Favour, and in less than two Hours time, *Hamp* and two other

ther of his Companions fell in with the *Sailors* Motion, and talked of nothing but braving the *Czar*, and seeing the Rarities of *Copenhagen*; the fourth Man of *Hamp's* Company stood out a little, but half an Hour's *Rhodomantade* and another Bowl of Punch brought him to be a *Sailor*; upon which one of the *Seamen* stepped out, and gave Notice to his *Lieutenant* who was drinking not far off, of the great Service he had performed, the *Lieutenant* was mightily pleas'd with *Jack Tarr's* Diligence, promised to pay the Reckoning, and give each of them a Guinea besides; in a Quarter of an Hour after the *Lieutenant* came in, the Fellows were all so very drunk, that he was forced to send for more Hands belonging to the Ship, who carried them to the Long-Boat, and there laying them down, and covering them with Mens Coats, carried them on board that Night; there is no doubt but *Hamp* was very much surprized when he found the Situation he was in the next Morning, but as there was no Remedy, he acquiesced without making any Words, and so began the Voyage chearfully; every body knows there was no fighting in these *Baltick* Expeditions, so that all the Hardships they had to combat with, were those of the Sea and the Weather, which were indeed bad

enough to People of an *English* Constitution, and who were very unfit to bear the Extremity of Cold; while they lay before *Copenhagen*, an Accident happened to one of *Hamp's* great Acquaintance, which much affected him, at that time, and it would certainly have been happy for him, if he had retained a just Sense of it always. There was one *Scrimgeous*, a very merry *Debonair* Fellow, who us'd to make not only the Men, but sometimes the Officers merry on board the Ship; he was particularly remarkable for being always full of Money, of which he was no Niggard, but ready to do any Body a Service, and consequently was very far from being ill beloved. This Man being one Day on Shore, and going to purchase some fresh Provisions to make merry with amongst his Companions, somebody took Notice of a *Dollar* that was in his Hand, and *Scrimgeous* wanting change, the Man readily offered to give smaller Money, *Scrimgeous* thereupon gave him the *Dollar*, and having afterwards bargain'd for what he wanted, was just going on board, when a *Danish* Officer with a File of Men, came to apprehend him for a *Coiner*; the Fellow conscious of his Guilt, and suspicious of their Intent, seeing the Man amongst them who had chang'd the *Dollar*, took to his

his Heels, and springing into the Boat, the Men rowed him on board immediately, where as soon as he was got, *Scrimgeous* fancied himself out of all Danger; but in this he was terribly mistaken, for early the next Morning, three *Danish* Commissaries came on board the *Admiral*, and acquainted him, that a Seaman on Board his Fleet, had counterfeited their Coin to a very considerable Value, and was Yesterday detected in putting off a Dollar, that thereupon an Officer had been ordered to seize him, but that he had made his escape by jumping into the Long-Boat of such a Ship, on board of which they were informed he was, therefore desired he might be given up in order to be punish'd; the *Admiral* declin'd that, but assured him, upon due Proof, he would punish him with the greatest Severity on board; and having in the mean while dispatch'd a Lieutenant and twenty Men, on board *Scrimgeous's* Ship, with the *Dane*, who detected him in putting off false Money, he was secur'd immediately, and upon searching his Trunk, they found there near an Hundred false Dollars, so artificially made, that none of the Ship's Crew could have distinguished them from the True; he was immediately carried on board the *Admiral*, who ordered him to be confin'd; soon after a Court-Marshal,

which sat condemn'd him to be whipp'd from Ship to Ship, which was perform'd in the View of the *Danish* Commissary, with so much Rigour, that instead of expressing any Notion of the *English* shewing Favour to their Countrymen upon any such Occasion, they interposed to mitigate the Fellow's Sufferings, and humbly besought the *Admiral* to omit lashing him on board three of the last Ships, but in this Request, they were civilly refus'd, and the Sentence which had been pronounced against him, was executed upon him with the utmost Severity; and it happening that *Hamp* was one of the Persons who rowed him from Ship to Ship, it filled him with much Terror, that he was scarce able to perform his Duty; the Wretch himself being made such a terrible Spectacle of Misery, that not only *Hamp*, but all the rest who saw him after his last Lashing, shock'd at the Sight; and tho' it was shrewdly suspected that some others had been concerned with him, yet this Example had such an Effect, that there were no more Instances of any false Money utter'd from that Time. It was near five Years after *Hamp* went first to Sea, that he began to think of returning home and working at his Trade again; and after this Thought had once got into his Head, as is usually with such Fellows, he was never

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easy 'till he had accomplished it, for doing which, an Opportunity offered soon after, the Ship he belong'd to being recalled and paid off, *John* having however very little to receive, the great Delight he took in Drinking, made him so constant a Customer to a certain Officer in the Ship, that all was near spent by that time he came home; that however would have been no great Misfortune, had he stuck close to his Employment, and avoid those Excesses of which he had been formerly guilty, but alas! this was by no means in his Power; he drank rather harder after Return than he had done before, and if he might be credited at that time, when the Law allows what is said to pass for Evidence, viz. in the Agony of Death it was this Love to drink that brought him without any other Crime, to his shameful End; the Manner of which, I shall next fully relate.

HAMP, passing one Night very drunk thro' the Street, a Woman as is usual enough for common *Street-Walkers* to do, took him by the Sleeve, and after some immodest Discourse, ask'd him, if he would not go into her Mother's and take a Pot with her; to this Motion *Hamp* readily agreed, and had not been long in the House before he fell fast a-sleep in the Company of *James Bird*, who

who was hang'd with him; the Woman who brought him into the House, and an old Woman, whom she called her Mother; by and by certain Persons came, who apprehended him and *James Bird*, for being in a disorderly House, and having carried them to the *Watch-House*, they were there both charg'd with robbing and beating, in a most cruel and barbarous Manner, a poor old Woman near *Rag-Fair*; at the next *Old-Baily* Sessions, they were both tried for this Fact, and the Woman's Evidence being positive against them, they were likewise convicted. *Hamp* behaved himself with great Serenity while under Sentence, declaring always, that he had not the least Knowledge of *Bird*, 'till the Time they were taken up; that in all his Life-time he had never acquired a Half-penny in a dishonest Manner, and that although he had so much abandoned himself to Drinking and other Debaucheries, yet he constantly work'd hard at his Employment, in order to get Money to support them; as to the Robbery, he said, *he knew no more of it than the Child unborn*; that he readily believed all that the Woman swore to be true, except her Mistake in the Persons; and that as to *Bird*, he could not take upon himself to say, that he was not concerned in it. A Divine of
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Eminency in the Church, being so charitable as to visit him, spoke to him very particularly on this Head; he told him, that a *Fury of his Countrymen on their Oaths, had unanimously found him Guilty, that the Law upon such a Conviction had appointed him to Death, and that there appeared not the least Hopes of his being any ways able to prevent it; that the denying of his Guilt therefore, could not possibly be of any Use to him here, but might probably ruin him for ever hereafter, that if he would act wisely in this unfortunate Situation, into which his Vices had brought him, he would make an ample Acknowledgement of the Crime he had committed, and own the Justice of Providence in bringing him to Condemnation, instead of leaving the World in the Assertion of a Falshood, and rushing into the Presence of Almighty God with a Lye in his Mouth.* This Exhortation was made publickly, and Hamp after having heard it with great Attention, answered it in the following Terms. *I am very sensible, Sir, of your Goodness in affording me this Visit, and am no less obliged to you, for your pressing Instances, to induce me to Confession; but then as I know the matter of Fact, so I am sure if it be not true, you would not press me to own it; I aver, that the Charge against me is utterly False in every*
Par-

Particular ; I freely acknowledge that I have led a most dissolute Life, and abandoned myself in working all kind of Wickedness ; but should I to satisfy some Persons Importunities, own also the Justice of my present Sentence, as arising from the Truth of the Fact, I should thereby become Guilty of the very Crime you warn me off, and go out of the World indeed, in the very Act of telling an untruth ; besides, of what Use would it be to me, who have not the least Hopes of Pardon, to persist in a Lye ? merely for the Sake of deceiving others, who may talk of my miserable Death, as a Piece of News, and at the same time cheat myself in what is my last and greatest Concern ; I begg therefore, to be troubled no more on this Head, but to be left to make my Peace with God, for those Sins which I have really committed, without being pressed to offend him yet more, by taking upon me, that which I really know nothing of. The Ordinary of Newgate hereupon, went into the Hole to examine Bird, who lay there in a sick and lamentable Condition, he confirmed all that Hamp had said, declared he never saw him in his Life, before the Night in which they were taken up, acknowledged himself to be a great Sinner, and an old Offender, that he had been often taken up before for Thefts ; but as to the present Case, he peremptorily

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insisted on his Innocence, and that he knew nothing of it. At the Place of Execution, *Hamp* appeared very composed, and with a Chearfulness, that is seldom seen in the Countenances of Persons when they come to the Tree, and are on the very Verge of Death; spoke for a few Minutes to the People, to this Purpose; that he had been a grievous Sinner, much addicted to Women, and much more to Drinking; that for these Crimes, he thought the Justice of God righteous in bringing him to a shameful Death; but as to assaulting the Woman in *Rag-Fair*, he again protested his Innocence, and declared he never committed any Robbery whatsoever, desired the Prayers of the People in his last Moments, and then applying himself to some short private Devotions, resigned himself with much Calmness to his Fate, on *Wednesday* the 22d of *December*, 1725, at *Tyburn*, being then in the 25th Year of his Age. *Bird* confirming as well as the Crasiness of his distempered Head would give him Leave, the Truth of what *Hamp* had said.





The Lives of JOHN AUSTIN, a Foot-Pad, JOHN FOSTER, a House-Breaker, and RICHARD SCURRIER, a Shop-lifter.



AMONGST the Number of those extraordinary Events which may be remarked in the Course of these melancholy Memoirs, of those who have fallen *Martyrs* to Sin, and *Victims* to Justice: There is scarce any thing more remarkable than the finding a Man who hath led an honest and reputable Life, till he hath attained to the Summit of Life, and then without abandoning himself to any notorious Vices, that may be supposed to lead him into Rapine and Stealth in order to support him, to take himself on a sudden to robbing on the Highway, and so finish a painful and industrious Life, by a violent and shameful Death: Yet this is exactly the Case before us. The Criminal of whom we are first to speak, *viz. John Austin*, was the Son of very honest People, having

having not only been bred up in good Principles, but seeming also to retain them: He was put out young to a *Gardener*, in which Employment being brought up, he became afterwards a Master for himself, and lived, as all his Neighbours report it, with a very fair Character, as any Man thereabout. On a sudden he was taken up for assaulting and knocking down a Man in *Stepney-Fields*, with a short, round, heavy Club, and taking from him his Coat, in the beginning of *November*, 1725, about seven o'Clock in the Morning. The Evidence being very clear and direct, the *Jury*, notwithstanding the Persons he called to his Character, found him guilty. He received Sentence of Death accordingly, and after a Report had been made to his Majesty, was order'd for Execution. During the Space he lay under Conviction, he at first denied, then endeavoured to extenuate his Crime, by saying he did indeed knock the Man down, but that the Man struck him first with an iron Rod he had in his Hand; and in this Story for some Time he firmly persisted: But when Death made a nearer Approach, he acknowledged the Falsity of these Pretences, and owned the Robbery in the Manner in which he had been charged therewith: Being asked how a Man in his Circumstances, being under no Necessities, but on the Con-

trary,

trary, in a Way very likely to do well, came to be guilty of so unaccountable an Act, as the knocking down a poor Man and taking away his Coat? he said, *that though he was in a fair Way of living, and had a very careful and industrious Wife; yet for some time last past, he had been disturbed in his Mind, and that the Morning he committed the Robbery, he took the Club out of his own House, being an Instrument made use of by his Wife, in the Trade of a Silk Throster; and from a sudden Impulse of Mind attack'd the Man in the Manner which had been sworn against him.* He appeared to be a Person of no vicious Principles, had been guilty of very few enormous Crimes, except drinking to Excess sometimes, and that but seldom. The Sin which most troubled him, being (his ordinary Practice) as a Gardiner, in spending the Lord's-Day mostly in hard Work, *viz.* in packing up Things for Monday's Market. He was very penitent for the Offence which he had committed; he attended the Service of *Chapel* duly, prayed constantly and fervently in the Place of his Confinement, and suffer'd Death with much Serenity and Resolution; averring with his last Breath, that it was the first and last Act which he had ever committed,

ted, being at the Time of his Death about thirty seven Years old.

THE second of these Malefactors, *John Foster*, was the Son of a very poor Man, who yet did his utmost to give his Son all the Education that was in his Power; and finding he was resolved to do nothing else, sent him with a very honest Gentleman to Sea: He continued there about seven Years, and as he met with no remarkable Accidents in the Voyages he made himself; my Readers may perhaps not be displeased, if I mention a very singular one which befel his *Master*: His Ship having the Misfortune to fall into the Hands of the *French*, they plundered it of every Thing that was in the least Degree valuable, and then left him with thirty five Men to the Mercy of the Waves. In this distressed Condition, he with much Difficulty made the Shoar of *Newfound-land*, and had nothing to subsist on but Bisket and a very little Water; knowing it was to no Purpose to ask those who were settled there, for Provisions without Money or Effects: He e'en landed himself and eighteen Men, and carried off a Dozen Sheep and eight Hogs: They were scarce returned on Board, before it sprung up a brisk Gail, which driving them from their Anchors, obliged them to put to Sea. It blew very hard all that Day and the
next

next Night; the Morning following the Wind abated, and they discovered a little Vessel before them, which, by crowding all the Sails she was able, endeavoured to bear away: The *Captain* thereupon gave her Chace, and coming at last up with her, perceived she was *French*, upon which he gave her a Broad-side, and the Master knowing it was impossible to defend her, immediately struck: They found in her a large Quantity of Provisions, and in the *Master's Cabin* a Bag with seven hundred Pistols: No sooner had the *English* taken out the Booty, but they gave the *Captain* and his *Crew* Liberty to sail where they pleased, leaving them sufficient Provisions for a Subsistence. Themselves standing in again for *Newfound-land*, where the *Captain* paid the Person who was owner of the Sheep and Hogs he had taken, as much as he demanded, making him also an handsome Present besides; thereby giving *Foster* a remarkable Example of Integrity and Justice, if he had had Grace enough to have followed it. When the Ship came home, and its Crew were paid off, he betook himself to loose Company, loved drinking and idling about, especially with ill Women: At last he was drawn in by some of his Companions to assist in breaking open the House of *Capt. Tolson*, and stealing thence Linnen and
other

other Things to a very great Value. For this Offence being apprehended, some Promises were made him in Case of Discoveries, which, as he said, he made accordingly, and therefore thought it a great Hardship that they were not performed; but the Gentleman, whoever he was, that made him those Promises, took no farther Notice of him, so that *Foster* being tried thereupon, the Evidence was very clear against him, and the *Jury*, after a very short Consideration, found him guilty. Under Sentence he behaved with great Sorrow for his Offence; he wept when ever any Exhortations were made to him, confess'd himself one of the greatest of Sinners, and with many heavy Expressions of Grief, seem'd to doubt whether, even from the Mercy of *God*, he could expect Forgiveness. Those whose Duty it was to instruct him how to prepare himself for Death, did all they could to convince him, that the greatest Danger of not being forgiven arose from such Doubtings, and persuaded him to allay the Fears of Death, by a settled Faith and Hope in *Jesus Christ*. When he had a while reflected on the Promises made in Scripture on the Nature of Repentance itself, and the Relation there is between *Creatures* and their *Creator*, he became at last better satisfied, and bore the Approach of Death with tolerable

rable Chearfulness. When the Day of Execution came, he received the Sacrament, as is usual for Persons in his Condition; he declared then that he heartily forgave all who had injured him, and particularly the Person, who, by giving him Hopes of Life, had endanger'd his eternal Safety: He submitted chearfully to the Decrees of *Providence* and the Law of the Land; being at the Time he suffered about thirty seven Years of Age.

RICHARD SCURRIER, was the Son of a *Blacksmith* of the same Name, at *Kingslon* upon *Thames*, he followed for a Time his Father's Business, but growing totally weary of working honestly for his Bread, he left his Relations, and without any just Motive or Expectation came up to *London*, he here betook himself to driving a *Hackney-Coach*, which as he himself acknowledged, was the first Inlet into all his Misfortunes, for thereby he got into loose and extravagant Company, living in a continued Series of Vice, unenlightened by the Grace of God, or any Intervals of a virtuous Practice; such a Road of Wickedness soon induced him to take illegal Methods for Money to support it; the Papers which I have in my Hands concerning him, do not say whether the Fact he committed was done at the Perswasion of others, or merely out
of

of his own wicked Inclinations ; nay, I cannot be so much as positive, whether he had any Associates or no ; but he in the Beginning of his thievish Practices, committed of *Petit Larceny*, which was immediately discovered ; he thereupon was apprehended and committed to *Newgate*, at the next Sessions he was tried, and the Fact being plain, convicted, but being very young, the Court thro' its usual Tenderness, determined to soften his Punishment into a private Whipping ; but before that was done, he joining with some other desperate Fellows, forc'd the outward Door of the Prison as the Keeper was going in, and escaped ; he was no sooner at Liberty, but he fell to his old Trade, and was just as unlucky as he was before ; for taking it into his Head to rub off with a Firkin of Butter, which he saw standing in a *Cheese-Monger's* Shop, he was again taken in the Fact, and within the Space of a few Weeks recommit- ted to his old Lodging. At first he apprehended the Crime to be so trivial, that he was not in the least afraid of Death, and therefore his Amazement was the greater when he was capitally convicted ; during the first Day after Sentence had been pronounced, the Extremity of Grief and Fear made him behave like one distracted, as he came a little to himself, and was instructed
by

by those who charitably visited him, he owned the Justice of his Sentence, which had been passed upon him, and the notorious Wickedness of his mispent Life; he behaved with great Decency at Chappel, and as well as a mean Capacity, and a small Education would give him Leave, prayed in the Place of his Confinement. As there is little remarkable in this Malefactor's Life, permit me to add an Observation or two, concerning the Nature of Crimes, punished with Death in *England*, and the Reasonableness of any Project, which would answer the same End as Death, *viz.* securing the Publick from any of their future Rapines, without sending the poor Wretches to the Gallows, and pushing them Headlong into the other World for every little Offence; the Gallies in other Nations serve for this Purpose, and the Punishment seems very well suited to the Crime; a Man steals once, and is condemned to hard Labour all his Life after, he suffers sufficiently for his Offence; yet his Life is preserved, and he is notwithstanding effectually deprived of all means of doing further Mischief; we have no Gallies, its true, in the Service of the *Crown of Britain*, but there are many other laborious Works to which they might be put, so as to be useful to their Coun-

Country; as to Transportation, tho' it may at first Sight seem intended for their Purpose; yet if we look into it with ever so little Attention, we shall see that it does not at all answer the End; for we find by Experience, that in a Year's Time, many of them are here again, and are Ten times more dangerous Rogues than they were before; and in the Plantations they generally behave themselves so ill, that many of them have refused to receive them, and have even laid Penalties on the Captains who shall Land them within the Bounds of their Jurisdiction; it were certainly therefore, more advantageous to the Publick, that they work'd hard here, than either forc'd upon the Planters abroad, or left in a Capacity to return to their Villainies at home, where the Punishment being Capital, serves only to make them less merciful and more resolute; this I propose only, and pretend not to dictate. But 'tis now time we return to the last mentioned Criminal, *Richard Scurrier*, and inform ye, that at the Time he suffered, he was scarce 18 Years of Age, dying with the Malefactors *Hamp, Bird, Austin, and Foster*, before mentioned, on the 22d of December, 1725, at *Tyburn*.



*The Life of FRANCIS BAILEY, a
notorious Highway-man.*



THAT ill Company, and an habitual Course of indulging vicious Inclinations, though of a Nature not punishable by human Laws, should at last lead Men to the Commission of such Crimes, as from the Injury done to Society, require capital Sufferings to be inflicted, is a Thing we so often meet with, that its Frequency alone is sufficient to instruct Men of the Danger there is in becoming acquainted, much more of conversing familiarly with wicked and debauched Persons. This Criminal, *Francis Bailey*, was one of the Number of those Examples from whence this Observation arises. He was born of Parents of the lowest Degree in *Worcestershire*, who were either incapable of giving him any Education, or took so little Care about it, that at the Time he went out into the World, he could neither write nor read: However, they bound him Apprentice to a *Baker*, and his Master took so much Care of him, that he was

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was in a fair Way of doing well if he would have been industrious, but instead of that he quitted his Employment to fall into that Sink of Vice and Laziness, the entering into a *Regiment* as a *common Soldier*. However it were, he behav'd himself in this State so well, that he became a *Corporal* and *Serjeant*, which last, though a Preferment of small Value, is seldom given to Persons of no Education; but it seems *Bailey* had Address enough to get that passed by, and lived with a good Reputation in the Army near twenty Years. During this Space, with whatever Cover of Honesty he appeared abroad, yet he failed not to make up whatever Deficiencies the irregular Course of Life might occasion, by robbing upon the *Highway*, tho' he had the good Luck never to be apprehended, or indeed suspected, till the Fact which brought him to his End.

HIS first Attempt in this Kind happen'd thus: The *Regiment* in which he serv'd was quarter'd at a great *Road-Town*, *Bailey* having no Employment for the greatest Part of his Time, and being incapable of diverting himself by *Reading* or innocent Conversation, knew not therefore how to employ his Hours. It happen'd one Evening, that in a Crew of his idle Companions there was one who had been formerly intimate with

a famous *Highway-man*: This Fellow entertained the Company with the Relation of Abundance of Adventures which had befallen him on the Road, till he had saved about seven hundred Pounds, wherewith he retired (as this Man said) to *Jamaica*, and lived there in great Splendor, having set up a *Tavern*, and by his facetious Conversation, acquired more Custom thereto than any other Publick-house had in the *Island*. As *Bailey* had list'ned with great Attention to this Story, so it ran in his Head that Night, that this was the easiest Method of obtaining *Money*, and that with Prudence there was no great Danger of being detected; *Money* at that Time ran low, and he resolved the next Day to make the Experiment: Accordingly he procured a Horse and Arms in the Evening, and at Dusk sallied out, with an Intent of stopping the first *Passenger* he should meet. A Country *Clergyman* happened to be the Man; no sooner *Bailey* approached him with the usual Salutation of *Stand and Deliver*, but putting his Hand in his Pocket, and taking out some *Silver*, he in a great Fright, and as it were, trembling, put it into *Bailey's* Hat, who thereupon carelessly let go the Reins of his Horse, and went to put the Money up in his own Pocket; the Parson upon seeing that,

that, clapp'd Spurs to his Horse, and throwing his right Elbow with all his Force under *Bailey's* left Breast, gave him such a Blow as made him tumble backwards off his Horse: The Parson riding off as hard as he could with a good Watch and near forty Pounds in Gold in his Purse. So ill a setting out might have marr'd a *Highwayman* of less Courage than him of whom we are speaking. But *Frank* was not to be frighten'd either from Danger or Wickedness, when he had once got it into his Head: So that as soon as he came a little to himself, and had caught his Horse, he resolv'd, by looking more carefully after the next Prize, to make up what he fancied he had lost by the Parson; and with this Intent rode on about a Mile, when he met with a Waggon, in which were three or four *young Wenches*, who had been at Service in *London*, and were going to several Places in the Country to see their Relations. *Bailey*, notwithstanding there were three Men belonging to the *Waggon*, stopp'd it, and rifled it of seven Pounds, and then very contentedly retired to his Quarters, Flush'd with this Success, he never wanted Money, but he took this Method of supplying himself, managing, after the Affair of the *Parson*, with so much Caution, that though he robb'd on the greatest Road, he

was never so much as once in Danger by a Pursuit. Perhaps he did not owe a little of his Security to the never taking any *Partner* in the Commission of his Villainies, to which he was once inclined, though diverted from it by an Accident, which, to a less obstinate Person, might have proved a sufficient Warning to have quitted such Exploits for good and all.

BAILEY being one Day at an Ale-house, not far from *Moor-fields*, fell into the Conversation of an *Irishman*, of a very gay alert Temper, perfectly suited to the Humour of our *Knight of the Road*; they talked together with mutual Satisfaction for about two Hours, and then the *Stranger* whisper'd *Bailey*, that if he would step to such a *Tavern*, he would give him part of a *Bottle* and *Fowl*; thither accordingly he walked, his Companion came in soon after, to Supper they went, and parted about twelve in high good Humour, appointing to meet the next Evening but one; *Bailey* the Day after was upon the *Barnet Road*, following his usual Occupations, when looking by Chance over the Hedges, he perceived the Person he parted with the Night before, stop a Chariot with two Ladies in it, and as soon as he had robb'd them, rid down a cross Lane. *Bailey* hereupon after taking nine Guineas from a

Nobleman's

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Nobleman's Steward, whom he met about a quarter of an Hour after; returned to his Lodgings at a little blind *Brandy-Shop* in *Piccadilly*, resolving the next Day to make a Proposal to his new Acquaintance of joining their Forces. With this View he staid at home all Day, and went very punctually in the Evening to the Place of their Appointment, but to his great Mortification the other never came; and *Baily*, after waiting some Hours, went away. As he was going home, he happened to step into an *Ale-house* in *Fore-street*, where recollecting that the House, in which he had first seen this Person, was not far off, it came into his Head, that if he went thither, he might possibly hear some News of him. Accordingly he goes to the Place, where he had hardly called for a *Mug of Drink* and a *Pipe of Tobacco*, but the Woman saluted him with *O lack, Sir!* don't you remember a Gentleman in red you spoke to here t'other Day? yes, (replied *Bailey*) does he live hereabouts? I don't know, says the Woman, indeed where he lives, but he was brought to a *Surgeon's* hard by, about three Hours ago, terribly wounded: My Husband is just going to see him; though *Bailey* could not but perceive that there might be Danger in his going thither, yet his Curiosity was so strong that

he could not forbear. As soon as he enter'd the Room, the wounded Man, who was just dress'd, beckon'd to him, and desired to speak with him. He went near enough not to have any thing over-heard; when the Man, in a low Voice, told him, that he was mortally wounded in riding off after robbing a *Gentleman's Coach*, and advised him to be cautious of himself; for (says the Dying Man) *I knew you to be a Brother of the Road as soon as I saw you, and if ever you trust any Man with that Secret, you may e'en prepare your self for Execution, as much as if you had surrender'd your self into the Hands of Justice.* In half an Hour he fell into fainting Fits, and then became Speechless, and died in the Evening, to the no little Concern of his new Acquaintance *Bailey*. Some Months after this, *Frank* was apprehended for breaking open a House in *Piccadilly*, and stealing *Pewter, Table Linnen*, and other *Household Stuff*, to a very considerable Value: He was convicted at the ensuing Sessions at the *Old Bailey* for this Crime, upon the Oath of a Woman who had no very good Character; though he acknowledged abundance of Crimes of which there was no Proof against him, yet he absolutely denied, *That* for which he was *condemned*, and persisted in that

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that Denial to his Death, notwithstanding that the *Ordinary* and other *Ministers* represented to him how great a Folly, as well as Sin, it was for him to go out of the World with a Lye in his Mouth. He said indeed he had been guilty of a Multitude of *heinous Sins* and *Offences*, for which God did with great Justice bring him unto that ignominious End. Yet he persisted in his Declarations of his Innocence as to *House-breaking*, in which he affirmed he had never been at all concerned, and with the strongest *Asseverations* to this Purpose, he suffered Death at *Tyburn*, the fourteenth of *March* 1725. being then about thirty nine Years old, in Company with *Jones*, *Barton*, *Gates*, and *Swift*, of whose Behaviour under Sentence we shall have Occasion to speak by and by.





The LIFE of JOHN BARTON, a Robber, Highwayman, and House-breaker.

EDUCATION is often thought a Trouble by Persons in their *Junior* Years, who heartily repent of their neglect of it in the more advanced Seasons of their Lives. This Person, *John Barton*, who is to be the Subject of our Discourse, was born at *London* of Parents capable enough of affording him tolerable Education, which they were also willing to bestow upon him, if he had been just enough to have applied himself while at School; but he instead of that rak'd about with Boys of his own Age, without the least Consideration of the Expence his Parents were at, idled away his Time, and forgot what little he learned almost as soon as he had acquired it. It is a long Time before Parents perceive that in their Children, which is evident to every one else; however, *Barton's* Father soon saw no good was to be done with him at School; upon which he took him

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him away, and placed him Apprentice with a *Butcher*, there he continued for some time, behaving to the well liking of his Master; yet even then he was so much out of Humour with work, that he associated himself with some idle young Fellows, who afterwards drew him in to those illegal Acts, which proved fatal to his Reputation and his Life. However, he did make a Shift to pass through the Time of his Apprenticeship with a tolerable Character, and was afterwards through the Kindness of his Friends set up a *Butcher*; in which Business he succeeded so well as to acquire Money enough thereby to have kept his Family very well, if he could have been contented with the Fruits of his honest Labour. But his old Companions who by this time were become perfectly vers'd in those Felonious Arts, by which Money is seemingly so easy to be attained, were continually soliciting him to take their Method of Life, assuring him, that there was not half so much Danger as was generally apprehended, and that if he had but Resolution enough to behave gallantly, he need not fear any Adventure whatsoever; Barton was a Fellow rather of too much than too little Courage, he wanted no encouragements of this sort to egg him to such Proceedings, the Hopes of living idly, and

in the Enjoyment of such lewd Pleasures as he had addicted himself to, were sufficient to carry him into an Affair of this sort; he therefore soon yielded to their Suggestions, and went into such Measures as they had before followed; especially House-breaking, which was the particular Branch of Villainy to which he had addicted himself; at this he became a very dextrous Fellow, and thereby much in Favour with his wicked Associates; amongst whom to be impious, argues a great Spirit, and to be ingenious in Mischief is the highest Character to which Persons in their miserable State can ever attain.

AMONGST the rest of *Barton's* Acquaintance, there was one *Torkshire Bob*, who was reckoned the most adroit House-breaker in Town. This Fellow one Day invites *Barton* to his House, which at that time was not far from *Red-Lyon-Fields*, and proposed to him two or three Schemes, by which some Houses in the Neighbourhood might be broke open; *Barton* thought all the Attempts too hazardous to be made, but *Bob* to convince him of the Possibility with which such things might be done, undertook to rob a Widow Lady's House of some Plate, which stood in the *Butler's* Room at Noon-Day, and without Assistance

ance ; accordingly thither he went, dressed in the Habit of a *Foot-man*, belonging to a Family which were well acquainted there, the Servants convers'd with him very freely, as my Lady such a One's new Man, while he entertained them with abundance of merry Stories, 'till Dinner was upon the Table, when taking Advantage of that Clutter in which they were, he slyly lighted a Fire-ball at the Fire-side, clapped into a Closet on the Side of the Stairs, in which the foul Cloaths were kept, and then perceiving the Smoak, cried out with the utmost Vehemence, *Fire, Fire*. This naturally drew every Body down Stairs, and created such a Confusion, that he found little or no Difficulty in laying hold of the Silver Plate which he aim'd at, he carried it away publickly, while the Smoak confounded all the Spectators, and 'till the next Morning no Body had the least Suspicion of him ; but upon sending to the Lady, for the Plate which her new Servant carried it away the Night before, and she denying that she had any Servant in the House that had not liv'd with her a Twelve-month, they then discovered the Cheat, tho' at a Time too late to mend it.

BARTON however, did not like his Master's Method entirely, choosing rather to strike out a new One of his own, which
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he fancied might as little Mischief him, as that audacious Impudence of the other did in his several Adventures; for which Reason, he was very cautious of associating with this Fellow who was very dextrous in his Art, but was more ready in undertaking dangerous Exploits, than any of the Crew at that Time about Town. *John's* Way was by a certain Nack of shifting the Shutters, whereby he opened a speedy Entrance for himself; and as he knew in how great Danger his Life was, from each of these Attempts, so he never made them but upon Shops or Houses where so large a Booty might be expected, as might prevent his being under Necessity of Thieving again in a Week or two's Time; yet when he had in this Manner got Money, he was so ready to throw it away on Women and at Play, that in a short Space his Pocket was at as low an ebb as ever; when his Cash was quite gone, he associated himself sometimes with a Crew of *Foot-Pads*, and in that Method of Plunder got sufficient to subsist him, 'till something offered in his own way, to which he would willingly have kept. At last hearing of a *Goldsmith's* not far from where he lodg'd, who had a very considerable Stock of fine Snuff-Boxes, Gold Chains, Rings, &c. he fancied he had now an Opportunity of getting

ring Provision for his Extravagancies, for at least a Twelvemonth; the Thoughts of which encouraged him so far, that he immediately went about it, and succeeded to his Wish, obtaining two Gold Chains, five Gold Necklaces, Seventy-two Silver Spoons, and a numberless Cargo of little Things of Value, yet this did not satisfy him. He had ventur'd a few Days afterwards having a proper Opportunity, on the Houle and Shop of one Mrs. Higgs, from whence he took an hundred Pair of Stockings, and other Things to a large Value; but as is common with such Persons, his Imprudence betray'd him in the Disposing of them, and by the Diligence of a *Constable* employed for that Purpose, he was caught and committed to *Newgate*; at the next Sessions he was for these Facts convicted, and as he had no Friends, so it was not in any Degree probable, that he should escape Execution, and therefore it is highly possible he might be the Projector of that Resistance, which he and the rest under Sentence with him made in the condemned Hole, and which we shall give an exact Account under the next Life.

THE peculiar Humour of Barton was to appear equally Gay and Chearful, though in these sad Circumstances as he had ever done

done in the most dissolute Part of his foregoing Life; in Consequence of which foolish Notion he smiled on a Person's telling him his Name was included in the *Dead-Warrant*, and at Chappel behaved in a Manner very unbecoming one who was so soon to answer at the Bar of the *Almighty*, for a Life led in open Defiance both of the Laws of God and Man; yet that Surprize which People naturally express at Behaviour of such a Kind on such an Occasion, seem'd in the Eyes of this poor Wretch so high a Testimony in Favour of his Gallantry, that he could not be prevail'd on, either by the Advices of the Ministers, or the Intreaties of his Relations, to abate any thing of that Levity which he put on, when he attended at Divine Service; tho' he saw it disturb'd some of his Fellow Sufferers at first, who were inclin'd to apply themselves strictly to their Duties, tho' at last, so fatal is evil Communication, even in the latest Moments of our Life, his ludicrous Carriage corrupted the rest, and instead of reproving him as they had formerly done, they now seem'd careful only of imitating his Examples, and in this Disposition he continued, even to the last Minute of his Life, which ended at *Tyburn*, on the 14th of *March*, 1725, he being then hardly 23 Years of Age.



*The LIFE of WILLIAM SWIFT, a
Thief, &c.*



AMONGST the Multitude of other Reasons which ought to incline Men to an honest Life, there is one very strong Motive which hitherto has not I think, been touch'd upon at all, and that is the Danger a Man runs, from being known to be of ill Life and Fame, of having himself accused from his Character, only, of Crimes which he tho' guiltless of, in such a Case, might find it difficult to get his Innocece either prov'd or credited; if any unlucky Circumstance should give the least Weight to the Accusation, the Criminal whose Life exercises our present Care, was a fellow of this Cast; he was born but of mean Parents, had little or no Education, and when he grew strong enough to Labour, would apply himself to no way of getting his Bread, but by driving a Wheel-Barrow with Fruit about the Streets; this led him to the Knowledge of abundance of wicked
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disorderly People, whose Manners agreeing best with his own, he spent most of his Time in sitting with them at their Haunts, when by bawling about the Streets, he had got just as much as would suffice to sit with. There is no doubt, but that he now and then shar'd with them, at least in what amongst such Folks passes for trivial Offences, but that he engaged in the grand Exploits of the Road, did not appear in any other Case than that for which he died, *viz.* taking four Table-Cloaths, eight Napkins, two Shifts, and other Things, from *Mary Cassell*; the Woman swore positively to him upon his Trial, and his Course of Life being such as I have represented it; no body appeared to his Reputation, so as to bring the Thing into the least Suspence with the Jury, whereupon he was convicted, and received Sentence of Death.

THE Concern *Swift* was under, when he found not the least Hopes of Life remaining, he having no Friends who were capable, had they been willing to have solicited a Pardon, or a Reprieve, shock'd him so much, that he scarce appeared to have his Senses; however, he persisted obstinately in denying, that he had the least Hand in the Robbery which was sworn against him; and as he made no Scruple of
acknow-

acknowledging a Multitude of other Crimes, his Denial of this gain'd some Belief, more especially when *Barton* confessed that himself with Two or Three others, were the Persons who committed the Robbery on the Woman, who swore against this Criminal. It must be acknowledged, that there was no Appearance of any sinister Motive, at least in *Barton* to take upon himself a Crime, of which otherwise he would never have been accused; and the Behaviour of *Swift* was at first of such a Nature, that it is not easy to conceive; why, when all Hopes of Safety were lost, and he was full of Acknowledgement as to the Justice of his Sentence, for the many other evil Deeds he had done; he should yet obdurately persist in denying this, if there had been no Truth at all in his Allegations. As this Fellow had neither natural Courage, nor had acquired any religious Principles from his Education, there is no Wonder to be made, he behaved himself so poorly in the last Moments of his Life; in which Terrour, Confusion, and Self-Condernnation wrought so strongly, as to make the Ignominy of the Halter the least dreadful Part of his Execution.

THE Day on which the Three last mentioned Persons, together with *Tates* or *Gates*, alias *Vulcan*, a Deer-sealer, and *Benjamin Jones*

Jones for *House-breaking*, were to have been Executed; these miserable Persons framed to themselves the most absurd Project of preserving their Lives, that could possibly have entered into the Heads of Men, for getting by some Means or other an *Iron Crow* into the *Hole*, they therewith dug out a prodigious Quantity of Rubbish and some Stones, which it is hardly credible could have been removed with so small Assistance as they had; with these they blocked up the Door of the *Condemned Hole* so effectually, that there was no possibility of getting it open, by any Force whatsoever on the outside. The *Keepers* endeavoured to make them sensible of the Folly of their Undertaking, in Hopes they would thereby be induced to prevent any firing upon them, which was all that those who had the Custody of them were now capable of doing, to bring them to Submission. The *Ordinary* also joined in dissuading them from thus mispending the last Moments of their Lives, which were through the Mercy of the Law extended to them for a better Purpose, but they were inexorable, and as they knew their Surrender would bring them immediately to a shameful Death, so they declared positively they were determined to kill or be killed in the Position in which they then were. Sir
Jeremiah

Jeremiah Marden, one of the *Sheriffs* for the Time being, was so good as to go down upon this Occasion to *Newgate*. The *Keepers* having open'd a sort of *Trap-Door* in the Room over the *Hole*, and from thence discharged several *Pistols* loaded with small Shot to no Purpose: The *Criminals* retiring to the farther End of the Room, continuing their safe and out of reach; though *Barton* and *Tates* received each of them a slight Wound in crouding backwards. Sir *Jeremy* went himself to this Place, and talked to them for a considerable Space, and one of the Fellows insisting to see his *gold Chain*, that they might be sure they were treating with the *Sheriffs* themselves; his Condescension was so great as to put down Part of it through the *Hole*, upon which they consulted together, and at last agreed to surrender: Whereupon they began immediately to remove the Stones, and as soon as the Door was at Liberty, one of the *Keepers* enter'd; just as he was within it, *Barton* snapped a *Steel Tobacco-Box* in his Face, the Noise of which resembling a *Pistol*, made him start back, upon which *Barton* said, *D—n you, you was afraid*. Sir *Jeremy*, when they were brought out, ordered the *Ordinary* to be sent for, and Prayers to be said in the *Chappel*; where he attended himself,

self, but whether the Hurry of this Affair, or that Stench which is natural to so filthy a Place as the *Condemn'd-Hold*, affected the *Sheriff's* Constitution, is hard to say: But upon his Return home he was seized with a violent *Fever*, which in a very short Space took away his Life. But to return to *Swift*:

WHEN they came to *Tyburn*, and the *Ministers* had performed his last Office towards them, this Criminal made a Shift in a faint Tone to cry out, *Good People, I die as innocent of the Crime for which I suffer, as the Child unborn*, which *Barton* with a loud Voice confirmed, saying, *I am the Man who robb'd the Person for which this Man dies, he was not concerned with me, but one Capell and another were Companions with me therein.* *Swift* at the same time of his Execution was about twenty seven Years of Age, or a little over.





The Lives of EDWARD BURNWORTH,
alias FRAZIER, WILLIAM BLEWIT,
 THOMAS BERRY, EMANUEL DICKEN-
 SON, WILLIAM MARJORAM, JOHN
 HIGGS, &c. *Robbers, Foot-Pads,*
House-breakers, and Murderers.



AS Society intends the Preserva-
 tion of every Man's Person and
 Property, from the Injuries
 which might be offered unto
 him from others, so those who
 in Contempt of its Laws go on to injure the
 one, and either by Force or Fraud to take
 away the other, are, in the greatest Propri-
 ties of Speech, *Enemies to Mankind*, and
 as such are reasonably rooted out and de-
 stroyed by every *Government under Heaven*.
 In some Parts of *Europe*, certain *Out-Laws*,
Banditti, or whatever other Appellation you'll
 please to bestow on them, have endeavour'd
 to preserve themselves by Force from the Pu-
 nishments which should have been executed
 upon them in *Justice*, and finding Mankind
 in general from a Spirit of Self-Preservation
 were

were become their Enemies, they exerted themselves the utmost they were capable of, in order to render their Bodies so formidable, as still to carry on their *Ravages* with Impunity, and in open Defiance of the Laws made against them. But an Attempt of this sort was scarce ever heard of in *Britain*, even in the most early Times, when as in all other Governments the Hands of the Law wanted Strength most, so that from the Days of *Robin Hood*, and *Little John*, to those of the Criminals of whom we are now writing, there was never any *Scheme* formed for an open Resistance of Justice, and carrying on a direct War against the *Lives* and *Properties* of Mankind.

EDWARD BURNWORTH, alias FRAZER, was the extraordinary Person who framed this Project for bringing Rapine into Method, and bounding even the Practice of Licentiousness within some kind of Order. It may seem reasonable therefore to begin with his Life, preferable to the Rest, and in so doing, we must inform our Readers, that his Father was by Trade a Painter, tho' so low in his Circumstances, as to be able to afford his Son but a very mean Education. However he gave him as much as would have been sufficient for him in that Trade, to which he bound him Apprentice, viz. to a
Buckle-

Buckle-Maker in *Grub-Street*, where for some Time *Edward* lived honestly and much in the Favour of his Master; but his Father dying, and his unhappy Mother being reduc'd thereby into very narrow Circumstances, Restraint grew uneasy to him, and the Weight of a Parent's Authority being now lost with him, he began to associate himself with those loose incorrigible *Vagrants*, who frequent the *Ring* at *Moor-fields*, and from *Idleness* and *Debauchery*, go on in a very swift Progression to *Robbery* and *picking of Pockets*. *Edward* was a young Fellow, active in his *Person*, and enterprizing in his *Genius*, he soon distinguished himself in *Cudgel-playing*, and such other *Moor-fields* Exercises as qualify a Man first for the *Road*, and then for the *Gallows*. The *Mob* who frequented this Place where one *Frazier* kept the *Ring*, were so highly pleased with *Burnworth's* Performances, that they thought nothing could express their Applause so much, as conferring on him the Title of *Young Frazier*. This agreeing with the Ferocity of his Disposition, made him so vain thereof, that quitting his own Name, he chose to go by this, and accordingly was called so by all his Companions.

BURNWORTH's grand Associates were these, *William Blewit*, *Emanuel Dickinson*, *Tho. Berry*, *John Legee*, *William Mar-*

goram, John Higgs, John Wilson, John Mason, Thomas Mekins, William Gillingham, John Barton, William Swift, and some others that it is not material here to mention. At first he and his Associates contented themselves with picking Pockets, and such other Exercises in the lowest Class of thieving, in which however they went on very assiduously for a considerable Space, and did more Mischief that Way than any Gang which had been before them for twenty Years. They rose afterwards to Exploits of a more hazardous Nature, viz. snatching Womens Pockets, Swords, Hats, &c. The usual Places for their carrying on such infamous Practices, being about the Royal Exchange, Cheap-side, St. Paul's Church Yard, Fleet-street, the Strand and Charing-Cross; but here they stuck a good while, nor is it probable they would ever have risen higher if Burnworth their Captain had not been detected in an Affair of this Kind, and committed thereupon to Bridewell, from whence, on some Apprehension of the Keepers, he was removed to New-Prison, where he had not continued long before he projected an Escape, which he afterwards put in Execution. During this Imprisonment, instead of reflecting on the Sorrows which his evil Course of Life had brought upon him. He meditated only how

to engage his Companions in Attempts of a higher Nature than they had hitherto been concerned in, and considering how large a *Circle* he had of wicked Associates, he began to entertain Notions of putting them in such a Posture as might prevent their falling easily into the Hands of Justice, which many of them within a Month or two last past had done: Though as they were sent thither on trivial Offences, they quickly got discharged again.

FULL of such Projects, and having once more regained his Freedom, he took much Pains to find out *Barton, Marjoram, Berry, Blewit* and *Dickenson*, in whose Company he remained continually, never venturing abroad in the Day time unless with his Associates in the Fields, where they walked with strange Boldness, considering Warrants were out against the greatest Part of the Gang. In the Night-time *Burnworth* strolled about to such little *Bawdy-houses* as he had formerly frequented, and where he yet fancied he might be safe. One Evening having wander'd from the Rest, he was so bold as to go into a House in the *Old-Bailey*, where he heard the Servants and Successors of the famous *Jonathan Wild*, were in close Pursuit of him, and that one of them was in the inner Room by himself. *Burnworth* loaded

his Pistol under the Table, and having primed it, goes with it ready cock'd into the Room where *Jonathan's Foreman* was, with a Quartern of Brandy and a Glass before him, hark ye (says *Edward*) *Tou Fellow, who have serv'd your Time to a Thief-Taker, what Business might you have with me or my Company, do you think to gain a hundred or two by swearing our Lives away? if you do you are much mistaken, but that I may be some Judge of your Talent that Way, I must bear you curse a little on a very particular Occasion; upon which filling a large Glass of Brandy, and putting a little Gun-powder into it, he clapp'd it into the Fellows Hands, and then presenting his Pistol to his Breast, obliged him to wish most horrid Mischiefs upon himself, if ever he attempted to follow him or his Companions any more. No sooner had he done this, but *Frazier* knocking him down, quitted the Room, and went to acquaint his Companions with his notable Adventure, which as it undoubtedly frighten'd the new *Thief-taker*, so it highly exalted his Reputation for undaunted Bravery amongst the rest of the Gang: A thing not only agreeable to *Burnworth's* Vanity, but useful also to his Design, which was to advance himself to a sort of absolute Authority amongst them, from whence he might be capable*

capable of making them subservient to him in such Enterprizes as he designed. His Associates were not cunning enough to penetrate his Views, but without knowing it, suffer'd them to take Effect; so that instead of robbing as they used to do, as Accident directed them, or they received Intelligence of any Booty, they now submitted themselves to his Guidance, and did nothing but as he directed or commanded them. The Morning before the Murder of *Thomas Ball*, *Burnworth* and *Barton*, whom we have before-mentioned, pitch'd upon the House of an old *Justice* of the *Peace* in *Clerkenwell*, to whom they had a particular Pique for having formerly committed *Burnworth*, and propos'd it to their Companions to break it open that Night, or rather the next Morning, for it was about One of the Clock they put their Design in Execution, and executed it successfully, carrying off some things of real Value, and a considerable Parcel of what they took to be Silver Plate; with this they went into the Fields above *Islington*, and from thence to *Copenhagen-House*, where they spent the greatest Part of the Day; on their parting the Booty, *Burnworth* perceived what they had taken for Silver, was nothing more than a gilt Metal, at which he in a Rage would have thrown it away; *Barton*

opposed it, and said, *they should be able to sell it for something*, to which *Burnworth* replied, *that it was good for nothing but to discover them, and therefore it should not be preserved at any rate*; upon this they differed, and while they were debating, came *Blewit, Berry, Dickinson, Higgs, Wilson, Legee, and Marjoram*, who joined the Company; *Burnworth* and *Barton* agreed to toss up at whose Disposal the Silver Ware should be, they did so, and it fell to *Burnworth* to dispose of it as he thought fit, upon which he carried it immediately to the *New-River-Side*, and threw it in there, adding, *he was sorry he had not the old Justice himself there, to share the same Fate*, being really as much out of Humour at the Thing, as if the Justice had imposed upon them in a fair Sale of the Commodity, so easy a Thing is it for Men to impose upon themselves.

As it happened they were all at present pretty full of Money, and so under no Necessity of going upon any Enterprize directly, wherefore they loitered up and down the Fields till towards Evening, when they thought they might venture into Town, and pass the Time in their usual Pleasures of Drinking, Gaming, and Whoring; while they were thus (as the *French* say) murdering of Time, a Comrade of theirs came up,
puffing

puffing and blowing as if ready to break his Heart ; as soon as he reached them, *Lads*, (says he,) *beware of one thing, the Constables have been all about Chick-Lane in search of Folk of our Profession, and if ye venture to the House where we were to have met to Night, 'tis Ten to One but we are all taken* ; this Intelligence occasioned a deep Consultation amongst them, what Method they had best take, in order to avoid the Danger which threatned them so nearly ; *Burnworth* took this Occasion, to exhort them to keep together, telling them, as they were armed with three or four Pistols a Piece, and short Daggers under their Cloaths, a small Force would not venture to attack them ; this was approved by all the rest, and when they had passed the Afternoon in this Manner, and had made a solemn Oath to stand by one another in Case of Danger, they resolved as Night grew on, to draw towards Town. *Barton* having at the Beginning of these Consultations quitted them and gone home ; as they came through *Turmill-Street*, they accidentally met the Keeper of *New-Prison*, from whom *Burnworth* had escaped, about six Weeks before, he desired *Edward* to step cross the Way to him, adding, *that he saw he had no Arms, and that he did not intend to do him any Prejudice* ;

Burnworth replied, that he was no way in fear of him, nor apprehensive of any Injury he was able to do him, and so concealing a Pistol in his Hand, he stepped over to him, his Companions waiting for him in the Street; but the Neighbours having some Suspicion of them, and of the Methods they followed to get Money, began to gather about them; upon which they called to their Companion to come away, which he after making a low Bow to the Captain of *New-Priscu* did, and they finding the People increase, thought it their most adviseable Method to retire back in a Body into the Fields; this they did keeping very close together, and in order to deter the People from making any Attempt, turn'd several times and presented their Pistols in their Faces, swearing they would Murder the first Man who came near enough for them to touch him, and the People being terrify'd to see such a Gang of obdurate Villains, dispersed as they drew near the Fields, and left them at Liberty to go whither they wou'd.

As soon as they had dispersed their Pursuers, they entered into a fresh Consultation, in what Manner they should dispose of themselves. *Burnworth* heard what every one proposed, and said at last, that he thought the best thing they could do, was to enter with

as much privacy as they could, the other Quarter of the Town, and so go directly to the Water-side; they approved his Proposal, and accordingly getting down to Black-Friars, cross'd directly into Southwark, they went afterwards to the Musick-house, but did not stay there, retiring at last into St. George's-Fields, where their last Counsel was held to settle the Operation of the Night; there *Burnworth* exerted himself in his proper Colours, informing them that there was no less Danger of their being apprehended there, than about *Chick-Lane*; for that one *Thomas Ball* who kept a *Gin-Shop* in the *Mint*, and who was very well acquainted with most of their Persons, had taken it into his Head to venture upon *Jonathan Wild's* Employment, and was for that Purpose indefatigable in searching out all their Haunts, that he might get a good Penny to himself by apprehending them; he added, that but a few Nights ago, he himself narrowly missed being caught by him, being obliged to clap a Pistol to his Face, and threatned to shoot him dead, if he offered to lay his Hand on him; therefore, continued *Burnworth*, the surest Way for us to procure Safety, is to go to this Rogue's House, and shoot him dead upon the Spot; his Death will not only secure us

from all Fears of his Treachery, but it will likewise so terrify others, that no body will take up the Trade of *Thief-Catching* in haste; and if it were not for such People who are acquainted with us and our Houses of resort, there would hardly one of our Profession in a Hundred, see the In-side of *Newgate*.

BURNWORTH had scarce made an End of his bloody Proposal, before they all testified their Assent to it with great Alacrity, *Higgs* only excepted, who seeming to disapprove thereof, it put the rest into such a Passion, that they upbraided him in the most opprobrious Terms, with being a Coward and a Scoundrel, unworthy of being any longer the Companion of such brave Fellows as themselves; when *Frazier* had sworn them all to stick fast by one another, he put himself at their Head, and away they went directly to put their designed Assassination in Execution. *Higgs* retreating under the favour of the Night, being apprehensive of himself when their Hands were in, since he was not quite so wicked as the rest, he might share the Fate of *Ball*, upon the first Dislike to him that took them; for *Burnworth* and his Party when they came to *Ball's* House, and enquired of his Wife for him, they were informed that he was gone to the next Door, a Publick-house, and that she would

would step and call him, and went accordingly ; *Burnworth* immediately followed her and meeting *Ball* at the Door, took him fast by the Collar, and dragged him into his own House, and began to expostulate with him the Reason, why he had attempted to take him, and how ungenerous it was for him to seek to betray his old Friends and Acquaintance. *Ball* apprehending their mischievous Intentions, addressed himself to *Blewit*, and begged of him to be an Intercessor for him, and that they would not Murder him ; but *Burnworth* with an Oath replied, *he would put it out of the Power of Ball, ever to do him any farther Injury, that he should never get a Penny by betraying him,* and thereupon immediately shot him. Having thus done, they all went out of Doors again, and that the Neighbourhood might suppose the Firing the Pistol to have been done without any ill Intention, and only to discharge the same, *Blewit* fired another in the Street over the Tops of the Houses, saying aloud, *they were got safe into Town, and there was no Danger of meeting any Rogues there.* *Ball* attempted to get as far as the Door, but in vain, for he dropped immediately, and died in a few Minutes afterwards.

HAVING thus executed their barbarous Design, they went down from *Ball's* House

directly towards the *Faulcon*, intending to cross the Water back again; by the Way they accidentally met with *Higgs*, who was making to the Water-side likewise; him they fell upon and rated for a pusilanimous Cowardly Dog, (as *Burnworth* called him) that would desert them in an Affair of such Consequence, and then questioned whether *Higgs* himself would not betray them; *Burnworth* proposed it to the Company to shoot their old Comrade *Higgs*, because he had deserted them in their late Expedition; which 'tis believ'd, in the Humour *Burnworth* was then in, he would have done, had not *Marjoram* interposed, and pleaded for the sparing his Life. From the *Faulcon-Stairs* they crossed the Water to *Pig-Stairs*; and there consulting how to spend the Evening, they resolved to go to the *Boar's-Head-Tavern* in *Smithfield*, as not being there known, and being at a Distance from the Water-side, in case any Pursuit should be made after them, on account of the Murder by them committed; at which Place they continued 'till near Ten of the Clock, when they separated themselves into Parties for that Night, viz. one Party towards the *Royal-Exchange*, the second to *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, the third for *Temple-Bar*, in pursuit of their old Trade of Diving. This Mur-

Murder made them more cautious of appearing in Publick; and *Blewit, Berry, and Dickinson*, soon after set out for *Harwich*, and went over in a *Packet-boat* from thence for *Halveot-Shuys*.

HIGGS also being daily in fear of a Discovery, shipped himself on Board the *Monmouth* Man of War at *Spithead*, where he thought himself safe, and began to be a little at ease; but Justice quickly overtook him, when he thought himself safest from its Blow; for his Brother who liv'd in Town, having wrote a Letter to him, and given it to a *Ship's Mate* of his to carry to him at *Spithead*; this Man accidentally fell into Company with one *Arthur* a *Watch-Man*, belonging to *St. Sepulchres* Parish, and pulling the Letters by Chance out of his Pocket, the *Watch-Man* saw the Direction, and recollected that *Higgs* was a Companion of *Frazier's*; upon this he sends Word to Mr. *Delafay*, Under-Secretary of State, and being examined as to the Circumstances of the Thing, proper Persons were immediately dispatch'd to *Spithead*, who seized and brought him up in Custody. *Wilson*, another of the Confederates, withdrew about the same Time, and had so much Cunning, as to preserve himself from being heard of for a considerable Time.

BUR-

BURNWORTH in the mean while with some Companions of his, continued to carry on their rapacious Plunderings, in almost all Parts of the Town, and as they kept pretty well united, and were resolute Fellows, they did a vast deal of Mischief, and yet were too strong to be apprehended. Amongst the rest of their Pranks, they were so audacious as to stop the Chair of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Harborough*, in *Piccadilly*, but the *Chair-Men* having Courage enough to draw their Poles and knock one of the Robbers down, the Earl at the same Time coming out of the Chair, and putting himself upon his Defence, they after a smart Dispute, in which *Burnworth* shot one of the *Chair-Men* in the Shoulder, and thereby prevented any Pursuit, they rais'd their wounded Companion and withdrew in great Confusion. About this Time their Robberies and Villainies having made so much Noise as to deserve the Notice of the Government: A Proclamation was published for the Apprehending *Burnworth*, *Blewit*, &c. it being justly supposed that none but those who were guilty of these Outrages, could be the Persons concerned in the cruel Murder of *Ball*. A Gentleman who by Accident had bought one of these Papers, came into an Ale-house at *White-Cross*.

Cross-Street, and read it publickly; the Discourse of the Company turning there-upon, and the Impossibility of the Persons concerned making their escape, and the Likelihood there was that they would immediately impeach one another. *Majoram*, one of the Gang was there, tho' known to nobody in the Room; he weighing the Thing with himself, retired immediately from the House into the Fields, where loitering about till Evening came on, he then stole with the utmost caution into *Smithfield*, and going to a *Constable*, there surrendered himself as an Accomplice in the Murder of *Thomas Ball*, desiring to be carried before the *Lord Mayor*, that he might regularly put himself in a Way of obtaining a Pardon, and the Reward promised by the Proclamation. That Night he was confined in the *Wood-Street-Compter*, his Lordship not being at Leisure to examine him. The next Day as he was going to his Examination, the Noise of his surrender being already spread all over the Town, many of his Companions changed their Lodgings and provided for their Safety; but *Barton* thought of another Method of securing himself from *Majoram's* Impeachment, and therefore planting himself in the Way, as *Majoram* was carrying to *Goldsmiths-Hall*, he popped out up-

on him at once, though the *Constable* had him by the Arm, and presenting a Pistol to him, said, *D—n ye, I'll kill you*; *Majoram* at the Sound of his Voice duck'd his Head, and he immediately firing, the Ball graz'd only on his Back, without doing him any Hurt; the Surprize with which they were all struck upon this Occasion, who were assisting the *Constable* in the Execution of his Office, gave an Opportunity to *Barton* to retire, after his committing such an Insult on publick Justice, as perhaps was never heard of; however, *Marjoram* proceeded to his Examination, and made a very full Discovery of all the Transactions in which he had been concerned, *Legge* being taken that Night by his Directions in *White-Cross-Street*, and after Examination committed to *Newgate*. *Burnworth* was now perfectly deprived of his old Associates, yet he went on at his old Rate, even by himself; for a few Nights after, he broke open the Shop and House of Mr. *Beezely*, a great *Distiller* near *Clare-Market*, and took away from thence, Notes to a very great Value, with a Quantity of Plate, which mistaking for white Metal he threw away. One *Benjamin Jones* pick'd it up and was thereupon hang'd, being one of the Number under Sentence, when the condemned

Hold

Hold was shut up, and the Criminals refused to submit to the Keepers. He was particularly described in the Proclamation, and three hundred Pounds offered to any who would apprehend him; yet so audacious was he to come directly to a House in *Holbourn*, where he was known, and laying a Pistol down loaded on the Table, called for a Pint of Beer, which he drank and paid for, defying any Body to touch him, tho' they knew him to be the Person mentioned in the Proclamation. It would be needless to particularize any other Bravados of his, which were so numerous, that it gave no little Uneasiness to the Magistrates, who perceived the evil Consequences that would flow from such things, if they should become frequent, they therefore doubled their Diligence in endeavouring to apprehend him, yet all their Attempts were to little purpose, and it is possible he might have gone on much longer if he had not been betrayed, the natural Consequence of one Rogue's trusting another.

It happen'd at this Time, that one *Christopher Leonard* was in Prison for some such Feats as *Burnworth* had been Guilty of, who Lodged at the same time with the Wife and Sister of this Fellow. *Kit Leonard* knowing in what State he himself was, and supposing
nothing

nothing could effectually recommend to him the Mercy and Favour of the Government, as the procuring *Frazier* to be Apprehended, who had so long defied all the Measures they had taken for that Purpose. He accordingly made the Proposal by his Wife to Persons in Authority, and the Project being approved they appointed a sufficient Force to Assist in siezing him, who were placed at an adjoining *Ale-house*, where *Kate* the Wife of *Kitt Leonard* was to give them the Signet. About 6 of the Clock in the Evening on *Shrove Tuesday*, *Kate Leonard* and her Sister, and *Burnworth* being all together (it not being late enough for him to go out upon his Nightly Enterprizes) *Kate Leonard* proposed to Fry some *Pancakes* for Supper, which the other two approved of; accordingly her Sister set about them; *Burnworth* had put off his *Surtout Coat*, in the Pocket and Lining whereof he had several Pistols; there was a little back Door to the House, which *Burnworth* usually kept upon the Latch, only in Order to make his Escape, if he should be surprized or discovered to be in that House. This Door *Kate* unperceived by *Burnworth*, and whilst her Sister was frying the *Pancakes*, *Kate* went to the *Ale-house* for a Pot of Drink, when having given the Men who were there waiting

waiting for him the Signal, she returned, and entering the House, pretended to lock the Door after her, but designedly missed the Staple; the Door being thus upon the Jarr only, as she gave the Drink to *Burnworth*, the six Persons rushed into the Room; *Burnworth* hearing the Noise, and fearing the Surprize, jump'd up, thinking to have made his Escape at the Back-door; but not knowing it to bolted, they were upon him before he could get it open, and holding his Hands behind him, one of them ty'd them, whilst another to intimidate him, fired a Pistol over his Head; having thus secured him, they immediately carried him before a Justice of the Peace, who after a long Examination committed him to *Newgate*. Notwithstanding his Confinement in that Place, he was still Director of such of his Companions as remained at Liberty, and communicating to them the Suspicions he had of *Kate Leonard's* betraying him, and the Dangers there was of her detecting some of the rest; they were easily induced to treat her as they had done *Ball*, and one of them fired a Pistol at her, just as she was entering her own House, but that missing, they made two or three other Attempts of the same Nature, until the Justices of the Peace placed a Guard thereabouts, in Order to
 secure

secure her from being killed, and if possible to seize those who should Attempt it, after which they heard no more of these Sorts of Attacks. In *Newgate* they confined *Burnworth* to the condemned *Hole*, and took what other necessary Precautions they thought proper, in order to secure so dangerous a Person, and who they were well enough aware, meditated nothing but how to escape. He was in this Condition when the Malefactors beforementioned, *viz.* *Barton*, *Swift*, &c. were under Sentence, and it was shrewdly suspected that he put them upon that Attempt of breaking out, of which we have given an Account before. There were two Things which more immediately contributed to the Defeating their Design; the one was, that though Five of them were to die the next Day, yet four of them were so drunk that they were not able to work, and they were so Negligent in providing Candles, that in two Hours after, they were lock'd up, they were forc'd to lie by for want of Light. As we have already related the Particulars of this Story; we shall not take up our Reader's Time in mentioning them again, but go on with the Story of *Burnworth*, and inform them, that the Keepers upon Suspicion of his being the Projector of that Enterprize removed him into the *Billow-Room*,
and

and there loaded him with Irons, leaving him by himself to lament the Miseries of his mispent Life, in the Solitude of his wretched Confinement; yet nothing could break the wicked Stubborness of his Temper, which as it had led him to those Practices, justly punished with so strait a Confinement, so now it urged him continually to force his Way through all Opposition, and thereby regain his Liberty, in Order to practise more Villainies of the same Sort with those in which he had hitherto spent his Time. It is impossible to say how, but by some Method or other he had procured Saws, Files, and other Instruments for this Purpose; with these he first released himself from his Irons, then broke through the Wall of the Room in which he was lodg'd, and thereby got into the Womens Appartment, the Window of which was fortified with three Tire of Iron-Bars; upon these he went immediately to work, and forced one of them in a little Time, while he was filing the next, one of the Women to ingratiate herself with the Keepers gave Notice, whereupon they came immediately and dragged him back to the condemned *Hole*, and there stapled him down to the Ground.

THE Course of our Memoirs leads us now to say something of the Rest of his
Com-

Companions, who in a very short Space came most of them to be collected to share that Punishment which the Law had so justly appointed for their Crimes. We will begin then with *William Blewit*, who next to *Frazier*, was the chief Person in the Gang; he was one of *St. Giles's* Breed, his Father a *Porter*, and his Mother at the Time of his Execution, selling Greens in the same Parish; they were both of them unable to procure wherewith either to give their Son Education, or otherwise provide for him, which occasioned his being put out by the Parish to a *Perfumer of Gloves*; but his Temper from his Childhood inclining him to wicked Practices, he soon got himself into a Gang of young Pick-pockets, with whom he practised several Years with Impunity, but being at last apprehended in the very Fact he was committed to *Newgate*, and on plain Proof convicted the next Sessions, and ordered for Transportation, being shipped on board the Vessel with other Wretches in the same Condition; he was quickly let into the Secret, of their having provided for an Escape, by procuring Saws, Files, and other Implements, put up in little Barrels, which they had pretended contain'd Ginger-Bread, and such other little Presents which were given them by their Relations; *Blewit* immediately

immediately foresaw abundance of Difficulties
 in their Design, and therefore resolved to
 make a sure Use of it for his own Advan-
 tage, which he did, by communicating all
 he knew to the *Captain*, who thereupon
 immediately seized their Tools, and thereby
 prevented the Loss of his Ship, which other-
 wise in all Probability would have been
 effected by the *Conspirators*; in Return for
 this Service, *Blewit* obtained his Freedom,
 which did not serve him for any better Pur-
 pose than his Return to *London* as soon as he
 was able; whether he went again upon his
 old Practices before he was apprehended,
 we cannot determine, but before he had con-
 tinued two Months in Town, somebody
 seiz'd him, and committed him to *Newgate*;
 at the next Sessions he was tried for return-
 ing from Transportation and convicted, but
 pleading when he received Sentence of Death,
 the Service he had done in preventing the
 Attempt of the other Malefactors; Exe-
 cution was respited 'till the Return of the
Captain, and on his Report the Sentence was
 changed into a new Transportation, and leave
 given him also to go to what Foreign Port
 he would; but he no sooner regain'd his Li-
 berty, than he put it to the same Use as
 before, and took up the Trade of snatching
 Hats, Wigs, &c. 'till he got into Acquain-
 tance

tance with *Burnworth* and his Gang, who taught him other Methods of robbing than he had hitherto practised. Like most of the unhappy People of his Sort, he had to his other Crimes added the Marriage of several Wives, of which the first was reputed a very honest and modest Woman, and it seems had so great a Love for him, notwithstanding the Wickedness of his Behaviour, that upon her visiting him at *Newgate*, the Day before they set out for *Kingston*, she was oppressed with so violent a Grief, as to fall down dead in the *Lodge*; another of his Wives married *Emanuel Dickinson*, and survived them both.

HIS meeting *Burnworth* that Afternoon before *Ball's* Murder, was Accidental, but the Savageness of his Temper led him to a quick Compliance with that wicked Proposition; but after the Commission of that Fact, he with his Companions before mentioned, went over in the *Packet-boat* to *Holland*. Guilt is a Companion which never suffers Rest to enter any Bosom where it Inhabits. They were so uneasy after their Arrival there, least an Application should be made from the Government at Home, that they were constantly perusing the *English Newspapers* as they came over to the *Coffee-Houses* in *Rotterdam*, that they might gain Intelligence

gence of what *Advertisements, Rewards*, or other Methods had been taken to Apprehend the Persons concerned in *Ball's* Murder; resolving on the first News of a Proclamation, or other Interposition of the State on that Occasion, immediately to quit the *Dominions* of the *Republick*. But as *Burnworth* had been betray'd by the only Persons from whom he could reasonably hope Assistance; *Higgs* seized on board a Ship where he fancied himself secure from all Searchies, so *Blewitt* and his Associates, tho' they daily endeavour'd to Acquaint themselves with the Transactions at *London* relating to them, fell also into the Hands of Justice, when they least expected it: So equal are the Decrees of *Providence*, and so inevitable the Strokes of Divine Vengeance.

THE Proclamation for Apprehending them came no sooner to the Hands of Mr. *Finch* the *British Resident* at the *Hague*, but he immediately caused an Enquiry to be made, whether any such Persons as were therein described had been seen at *Rotterdam*, and being assured that there had, and that they were lodged at the *Hamburg Arms* on the *Boom Keys* in that City: He sent away a special Messenger to enquire the Truth thereof; of which he was no sooner satisfied, than he procured an Order from the States-

General for Apprehending them any where within the *Province*. By Virtue of this Order the Messenger, with the Assistance of the *Schoots Denaires* the proper Officers for that Purpose in *Holland*, apprehended *Blewit* at the House, whither they had been directed; but his two Companions *Dickinson*, and *Berry*, had left him and were gone on board a Ship, not caring to remain any longer in *Holland*; they conducted their Prisoner as soon as they had taken him to the *Stadt house Prison* in *Rotterdam*, and then went to the *Brill*, where the Ship on board which his Companions were, not being cleared out, they surpriz'd them also, and having Hand cuffed them, sent them under a strong Guard to *Rotterdam*, where they were put in the same Place with their old Associate *Blewit*. We shall now therefore take an Opportunity of speaking of each of them, and acquainting the Readers with those Steps, by which they arose to that unparalleled Pitch of Wickedness, which rendered them alike the Wonder and Detestation of all the sober Part of Mankind.

EMANUEL DICKINSON, was the Son of a very worthy Person, whose Memory I shall be very careful of flattering upon this Occasion. The *Lad* was ever wild and ungovernable in his Temper, and being

ing left a Child at his Father's Death, himself, his Brother, and several Sisters, thrown all upon the Hands of their Mother, who was utterly unable to support them in those Extravagancies to which they were inclin'd, whereupon they unfortunately addicted themselves to such evil Courses, as to them seem'd likely to provide such a Supply of Money, as might enable them to take such licentious Pleasures, as were suitable to their vicious Inclinations. The natural Consequence of which was, that they all fell under Misfortunes, especially *Emanuel* of whom we are speaking, who having addicted himself to picking of Pockets, and such kind of petit Facts for a considerable Space; at last attempting to snatch a Gentleman's Hat off in the *Strand*, he was seized with it in his Hand, and committed to *Newgate*, and at the next Sessions convicted and ordered for Transportation; but his Mother applying at Court for a Pardon, and setting forth the Merit of his Father, procured his Discharge; the only Use he made of which was to associate himself with his old Companions, who by Degrees led him into greater Villanies than any he had till that time been concern'd in; and at last falling under the Direction of *Burnworth*, he was with the Rest drawn in to the Murther of *Ball*. After

this he followed *Blewit's* Advice, and not thinking himself safe even in *Holland*, he and *Berry* (was has been said) actually on Ship-board, in order to their Departure.

THOMAS BERT was a Beggar, if not a Thief from his Cradle, descended from Parents in the most wretched Circumstances, who being incapable of giving him an honest Education, suffered him on the contrary to idle about the Streets, and to get into such Gangs of Thieves and Pick-Pockets, as taught him from his Infancy the Arts of *Diving*, (as they in their *Cant* call it) and as he grew in Years, still brought him on to a greater Proficiency in such evil Practices, in which however he did not always meet with Impunity; for besides getting into the little Prisons about Town, and being whipped several times at the Houses of *Correction*, he had also been thrice in *Newgate*, and for the last Fact convicted and ordered for Transportation; however, by some means or other, he got away from the Ship, and returned quickly to his old Employment; in which he had not continued long, before falling into the Acquaintance of *Burnworth*, it brought him first to the Commission of a cruel Murther, and after that with great justice to suffer an ignominious Death. Having been thus particular

lar on the Circumstances of each Malefactor distinctly, let us return to the Thread of our Story, and observe to what Period their wicked Designs, and lawless Courses brought them at the last.

AFTER they were all Three secured, and safe confin'd in *Rotterdam*, the *Resident* dispatch'd an Account thereof to *England*, whereupon he received Directions for applying to the *States-General* for Leave to send them back ; this was readily granted, and six Soldiers were ordered to attend them on board, besides the Messengers who were sent to fetch them. Capt. *Samuel Taylor* in the *Delight-Sloop*, brought them safe to the *Nore*, where they were met by two other Messengers, who assisted in taking Charge of them up the River. In the Midst of all the Miseries they suffered, and the certainty they had of being doom'd to suffer much more as soon as they came on Shore ; yet they behaved themselves with the greatest Gaity imaginable, were full of their Jest, and shewed as much Pleasantness, as if their Circumstances had been the most Happy. Observing a *Press-Gang* very busy on the Water, and that the People in the Boat shunned them with great Care ; they treated them with the most opprobrious Language, and impudently dar'd the *Lieutenant* to come

and press them for the Service. On their Arrival at the *Tower*, they were put into a Boat with the Messengers, with three other Boats to guard them, each of which was filled with a Corporal and a File of Musqueteers; and in this Order they were brought to *Westminster*, where after being examined before *Justice Cholk* and *Justice Blackerby*; after which they were all Three put into a Coach, and conducted by a Party of *Foot-Guards* to *Newgate*, through a continued Lane of Spectators, who by their loud Huzzas proclaimed their Joy, at seeing these egregious Villains in the Hands of Justice; for they like *Jonathan Wild* were so wicked as to lose the Compassion of the Mob.

ON their Arrival at *Newgate*, the *Keepers* expressed a very great Satisfaction, and having put them on each a pair of the heaviest *Irons* in the *Goal*, and taken such other Precautions as they thought necessary for securing them, they next did them the Honour of conducting them up Stairs, to their old Friend *Edward Burnworth*, who having congratulated them on their safe Arrival; and they condoled with him on his Confinement, they took their Places near him, and had the Conveniency of the same Apartment, and shakled in the like Manner. They did not appear to shew the least sign of *Contrition*

trition or *Remorse* for what they had done; on the contrary they spent their Time with all the Indifference imaginable. Great Numbers of People had the Curiosity to come to *Newgate* to see them, and *Blewit* upon all Occasions made use of every Opportunity to excite their Charity, alledging they had been robbed of every thing when they were seized; *Burnworth* with an Air of Indifference replied, D——n this *Blewit*, because he has got a *long Wig* and a *ruffled Shirt*, he takes the Liberty to talk more than any of us. Being exhorted to apply the little time they had to live in preparing themselves for another World, *Burnworth* replied, if they had any Inclination to think of a future State, 'twas impossible in their Condition, so many Persons as were admitted to come to view them in their present Circumstances, must needs divert any good Thoughts; but their Minds were totally taken up with consulting the most likely Means to make their Escapes, and extricate themselves from the Bolts and Shackles, with which they were clogged and incumber'd; and indeed all their Actions shewed their Thoughts were bent only on Enlargement, and that they were altogether unmindful of Death, or at least careless of the future Consequence thereof.

ON Wednesday the 30th of March, 1726, Burnworth, Blewit, Berry, Dickinson, Legee and Higgs, were all put into a Waggon, Hand-cuffed and chain'd, and carried to Kingston, under a Guard of the Duke of Bolton's Horse. At their coming out of Newgate they were very merry, charging the Guard to take care that no Misfortune happened to them, and called upon the numerous Crowd of Spectators, both at their getting into the Waggon, and afterwards as they passed along the Road, to shew their Respect they bore them by Hallowing, and to pay them the Compliments due to Gentlemen of their Profession, and called for several Bottles of Wine, that they might drink to their good Journey. As they passed along the Road they endeavoured to shew themselves very merry and pleasant by their facetious Discourse to the Spectators, and frequently threw Money amongst the People who followed them, diverting themselves with seeing the others strive for it; and particularly Blewit having thrown out some Half-pence amongst the Mob, a little Boy who was present, pick'd up one of them, and calling out to Blewit, told him, *that as sure as he the said Blewit, would be condemned at Kingston, so sure would be have his Name engraved thereon*; whereupon Blewit took a Shilling

ling out of his Pocket and gave it to the Boy, telling him, *there was something towards defraying the Charge of Engraving, and bid him be as good as his Word, which the Boy promised he would.*

ON the 31st of March, the Assizes were opened together, with the Commission of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery for the County of Surry, before the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and Mr. Justice Denton; and the Grand Jury having found Indictments against the Prisoners, they were severally arraign'd thereupon, when Five of them pleaded not Guilty; but Burnworth absolutely refused to plead at all; upon which after being advised by the Judge, not to force the Court upon that Rigour, which they were unwilling at any time to Practice; and he still continued obstinately, his Thumbs, as is usual in such Cases, were ty'd and strain'd with a Pack-thread; which having no effect upon him, the Sentence of the Press, or as it is stil'd in Law, of the Pain, Fort, and Dure, was read to him in these Words; *You shall go to the Place from whence you came, and there being stripped nak'd, and laid flat upon your Back on the Floor, with a Napkin about your Middle to hide your Privy Members, and a Cloath on your Face, then the Press is to be laid upon you, with as*

much Weight as, or rather more than you can bear ; you are to have three Morcels of Barley-Bread in Twenty four Hours, a Draught of Water from the next Puddle near the Goal, but not running Water ; the second Day two Morcels and the same Water, with an Encrease of Weight, and so to the third Day until you expire.

THIS Sentence thus passed upon him, and he still continuing contumacious, was carried down to the *Stock-House*, and the *Press* laid upon him, which he continued for the Space of one Hour and three Minutes, under the Weight of three Hundred, three Quarters, and two Pounds ; whilst he continued under the *Press*, he endeavoured to beat out his Brains against the Floor ; during which Time, the *High-Sheriff* himself was present, and frequently exhorted him to plead to the Indictment, which at last he consented to do ; and being brought up to the Court, after a Trial which lasted from Eight in the Morning 'till One in the Afternoon ; on the First Day of *April* they were all Six found Guilty of the Indictment, and being remanded back to the *Stock-House*, were all chain'd and stapled down to the Floor. Whilst they were under Conviction, the Terrors of Death did not make any Impression upon them ; they diverted themselves

selves with repeating Jest and Stories of various Natures, particularly of the Manner of their Escapes before out of the Hands of Justice, and the Robberies and Offences they had committed; and it being proposed for the Satisfaction of the World, for them to leave the Particulars of the several Robberies by them committed; Burnworth replied, *that were he to write all the Robberies by him committed, a hundred Sheets of Paper, wrote as close as could be, would not contain them.* Notwithstanding what had been alledged by Higgs, of his forsaking his Companions in the Fields, it appeared by other Evidence, that he followed his Companions to Ball's House, and was seen hovering about the Door during the Time the Murther was committed, with a Pistol in his Hand.

As for Burnworth after Conviction, his Behaviour was as Ludicrous as ever; and being as I said, a Painter's Son, he had some little Notion of Designing, and therewith diverted himself in sketching his own Picture in several Forms; particularly as he lay under the Press, which being Engraved in Copper, was placed as the Frontispiece of a six Penny Book which was published of his Life, and the rest seemed to fall no Way short of him in that silly Contempt of Death, which with the Vulgar passes for Resolution.

On *Monday* the 4th Day of *April*, they were brought up again from the *Stock-House* to receive Sentence of Death. Mr. *Justice Denton* before he passed it upon them, made a very pathetick Speech, in which he represented to them, the Necessity there was of punishing Crimes like theirs with Death, and exhorted them not to be more Cruel to themselves, than they had obliged the Law to be severe towards them, by squandering away the small Remainder of their Time, and thereby add to an ignominious End, an eternal Punishment hereafter. When Sentence was passed, they entreated Leave for their Friends to visit them in the Prison, which was granted them by the Court, but with a strict Injunction to the *Keeper* to be careful over them. After they returned to the Prison, they bent their Thoughts wholly on making their Escape, and to that Purpose had sent to their Friends, and procured proper Implements for the Execution of it. *Burnworth's* Mother being surprized with several *Files*, &c. about her, and the whole Plot discovered by *Blewit's* Mother; being heard to say, that *she had forgot the Opium*. It seems the Scheme was to Murder the two Persons who attended them in the Goal, together with Mr. *Elliot* the *Turnkey*; after they had got out they intended to have fired

a Stack of Bavins adjoining to the Prison, and thereby amused the Inhabitants while they got clear off; *Burnworth's* Mother was confined for this Attempt in his Favour, and some lesser Implements that were sewed up in the Waistband of their Breeches being ripped out, all hopes of Escape whatsoever were now taken away; yet *Burnworth* affected to keep up the same Spirit with which he had hitherto behaved, and talked in a *Rhodomantade* to one of his Guard, of coming in the Night in a dark Entry, and pulling him by the Nose, if he did not see him decently buried. About Ten of the Clock on *Wednesday* Morning, they together with one *Blackburn*, who was condemned for robbing on the Highway, a fellow grossly Ignorant and Stupid, were carried out in a Cart to their Execution, being attended by a Company of Foot to the Gallows; in their Passage thither, that audacious Carriage in which they had so long persisted, totally forsook them, and they appeared with all that Seriousness and Devotion, which might be looked for, from Persons in their Condition. *Blewit* perceiving one Mr. *Warwick* among the Spectators, desired that he might stop to speak to him, which being granted, he threw himself upon his Knees, and earnestly intreated his Pardon, for having once attempted

ed his Life, by presenting a Pistol at him, upon Suspicion that Mr. *Warwick* knowing what his Profession was, had given an Information against him. When at the Place of Execution and tied up, *Blewit* and *Dickenson* especially, pray'd with great Fervour, and with a becoming Earnestness, exhorted all the young Persons they saw near them, to take Warning by them, and not follow such Courses as might in Time bring them to so terrible an End.

BLEWIT acknowledged, that for sixteen Years last past, he had liv'd by Stealing and Pilfering only; he had given all the Cloaths he had to his Mother, but being informed that he was to be hung in Chains, he desired his Mother might return them to prevent his being put up in his Shirt; he then desired the Executioner to tye him up so, that he might be as soon out of his Pain as possible; then he set the *Penitential Psalm*, and repeated the Words of it to the other Criminals, then they all kissed one another, and after some private Devotions the Cart drew away and they were turn'd off; *Dickenson* died very hard, kicking off one of his Shoes, and loosing the other. Their Bodies were carried back under the same Guard which attended them to their Execution. *Burnworth* and *Blewit* were afterwards

wards hung in Chains, over-against the Sign of the *Fighting-Cocks* in *St. George's-Fields*, *Dickenson* and *Berry* were hung up on *Kennington Common*, but the *Sheriff* of *Surry* had Orders at the same time to suffer his Relations to take down the Body of *Dickenson* in Order to be interred, after its hanging up one Day, which Favour was granted on account of his Father's Service in the Army, who was killed at his Post, when the Confederate Army besieged *Air*, in the late War. *Legee* and *Higgs* were hung upon *Putney Common* beyond *Wandsworth*, which is all we have to add concerning these hardened Malefactors, who so long defied the Justice of their Country, and are now to the Joy of all honest People, placed as Spectacles for the Warning of their Companions, who frequent the Places where they are hung in Chains.





*The LIFE of JOHN GILLINGHAM, an
Highwayman and Foot-Pad, &c.*



AS want of Education hath brought many who might otherwise have done very well in the World to a miserable End, so the best Education and Instructions are often of no effect to Stubborn and corrupt Minds. This was the Case of *John Gillingham*, of whom we are now to give an Account, and he had been brought up at *Westminster-School*, but all he acquired there was only a smattering of Learning, and a great deal of Self-conceit, fancying Labour was below him, and that he ought to live the Life of a Gentleman; he associated himself with such Companions, as pretended to teach him this Art of easily attaining Money. He was a Person very inclinable to follow such Advices, and therefore readily came into these Proposals as soon as they were made; amongst the rest of his Acquaintance, he became very intimate with *Burnworth*, and made

JOHN GILLINGHAM, *Foot-Pad.* 185

made one of the Number in attacking the Chair of the *Earl of Harborough* near *St. James's Church*, and was the Person who shot the *Chairman* in the Shoulder. As he was a young Man of a good deal of Spirit, so he committed abundance of Facts in a very short Space; but the indefatigable Industry which the *Officers of Justice* exerted, in apprehending *Frazier's* desperate Gang, soon brought him to the miserable End, consequent from such wicked Courses. He was indicted for assaulting *Robert Sberly, Esq;* upon the Highway, and taking from him a *Watch* value 20*l.* He was a second time Indicted for assaulting *John du Cummins*, a Footman, and taking from him a *Silver Watch*, a *Snuff Box*, and *Five Guineas* in Money, both of which Facts he Steadily denied after his Conviction, but for the third Crime of which he was convicted, *viz.* The sending a Letter to extort Money from *Simon Smith, Esq;* and which follows in these Words.

MR. SMITH,

I Desire you to send me Twenty Guineas by the Bearer, without letting him know what it is for, he is innocent of the Contents; if you offer to speak of this to any Body —

My

My Blood and Soul, if you are not a dead Man before Monday Morning; and if you don't send the Money, the Devil dash my Brains out, if I don't Shoot you the first Time you stir out of Doors; or if I should be taken there are others that will do your Business for you by the first Opportunity, therefore pray fail not, for — Strike me to instant D — if I am not as good as my Word.

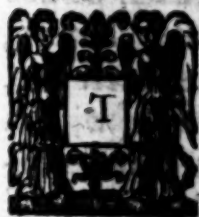
To Mr. Smith in Great George-Street over against the Church near Hanover Square.

HE confessed that he knew of the writing and sending this Epistle, but denied that he did it himself, and indeed the Indictment set forth that it was in Company with one John Mason, then deceased, that the said Conspiracy was formed; under Sentence of Death, he behaved himself very fillily, Laughing and Scoffing at his approaching End, and saying to one of his Companions, as the Keeper went down Stairs before them, let us knock him down and take his Keys from him; if one leads to Heaven, and the other to Hell, we shall at least have a Chance to get the Right; yet when Death with all its Horreur stared him in the Face, he

he began to Relent in his Behaviour, and to acknowledge the justness of that Sentence, which had doomed him to death. At the Place of Execution he prayed with great Earnestness, confessed he had been a grievous Sinner, and seemed in great Confusion in his last Moments. He was about 22 Years of Age when he died, which was on the 9th of May, 1726, at Tyburn.



The LIFE of JOHN COTTEREL a
Thief, &c.



HE Miseries of Life are so many, so deep, so sudden, and so irretrievable, that when we consider them attentively, they ought to inspire us with the greatest Submission towards that *Providence* which directs us, and fill us with humble Sentiments of our own Capacities, which are so weak and incapable to protect us from any of those Evils, to which from the Vicissitudes of Life we are continually exposed. *John Cotterel* the Subject of this part of our Work, was a Person descended of honest and

and industrious Parents, who were exceedingly careful in bringing him up as far as they were able, in such a Manner as might enable him to get his Bread honestly, and with some Reputation. When he was grown big enough to be put out Apprentice, they Agreed with a Friend of theirs a Master of a *Vessel* to take him with him two or three Voyages for a Trial; *John* behaved himself so well, that he gained the Esteem of his Master and the Love of all his *Fellow Sailors*. When he had been Five Years at Sea, his Credit was so good, both as to his being an able Sailor and an honest Man, that his Friends found it no great Difficulty to get him a Ship, and after that another; the last he Commanded was of the Burthen of 200 Tuns, but sustaining great Losses himself, and greater still, in supporting his eldest Son, who dealt in the same Way, and with a Vessel of his own, carried on a Trade between *England* and *Holland*. He fell thro' these Misfortunes into Circumstances so Narrow, that he lay two Years and a half in *Newgate* for Debt; being discharg'd by the *Act of Insolvency*, and having not wherewith to sustain himself, he broke one Night into a little *Chandlers Shop*, where he used now and then to get a half penny worth of that destructive Liquor *Gin*, and there taking a
Tub

Tub with two Pounds of Butter, and a Pound of Pepper in it, but before he got out of the Shop he was apprehended, and at the next Sessions was found Guilty of the Fact. While under Sentence of Death, he behaved with the greatest Gravity, averred that it was the first ill Thing of that kind he had ever done; indeed his Character appeared to be very good, for though his Acquaintance in Town had done little for him hitherto, yet when they saw that they should not be long troubled with him, they sent him good Books, and provided every thing that was necessary for him, so that with much Resignation he finished his Days, with the other Malefactors at Tyburn, in the 52d Year of his Age, on the 9th Day of May, 1726.



The



*The LIFE of CATHERINE HAYES,
a bloody and inhuman Murderess, &c.*



HOUGH all Crimes are in this Nature foul, yet some are apparently more heinous, and of a blacker Die than others; Murther has in all Ages, and in all Climates been amongst the Number of those Offences, held the most enormous and the most shocking to human Nature of any other; yet even this admits sometimes of Aggravation, and the Laws of *England* have made a Distinction between the Murther of a Stranger, and of him, or her, to whom we owe a civil, or natural Obedience; and hence it is, that killing a Husband or a Master, is distinguished under the Name of *Petit Treason*; yet even this in the Story we are about to relate, had several heightening Circumstances, the poor Man having both a Son and a Wife, imbruing their Hands in his Blood. *Catherine Hall*, afterwards by her Marriage, *Catherine Hayes*, was born in the Year 1690, at a Village

CATHERINE HAYES, a Murderess. 191

lage on the borders of *Warwickshire*, within four Miles of *Birmingham*. Her Parents were so poor as to receive the Assistance of the Parish, and so careless of their Daughter, that they never gave her the least Education. While a Girl she discovered Marks of so violent and turbulent a Temper, that she totally threw off all Respect and Obedience to her Parents, giving a loose to her Passions, and gratifying herself in all her vicious Inclinations.

ABOUT the Year 1705, some Officers coming into the Neighbourhood to Recruit, Kate was so much taken with the Fellows in Red, that she strol'd away with them, 'till they came to a Village called *Great Ombersley* in *Warwickshire*, where they very ungenerously left her behind them. This Elopement of her Sparks drove her almost mad, so that she went like a distracted Creature about the Country, 'till coming to Mr. Hayes's Door, his Wife in Compassion took her in out of Charity: The eldest Child of the Family was *John Hayes* the Deceased, who being then about Twenty-one Years of Age, found so many Charms in this *Catherine Hall*, that he quickly after her coming into the House, made Proposals to her of Marriage; there is no doubt of their being readily enough received, and as they both were

were sensible how disagreeable a thing it would be to his Parents, agreed to keep it Secret; they quickly adjusted the Measures that were to be taken, in order to their being married at *Worcester*; for which Purpose Mr. *John Hayes* pretended to his Mother, that he wanted some Tools in the Way of his Trade, viz. that of a *Carpenter*, for which it was necessary he should go to *Worcester*; and under this Colour he procured also as much Money as with what he already had, was sufficient to defray the Expence of the intended Wedding.

CATHERINE, without the Formality of bidding them adieu, having privately quitted the House; and meeting at the appointed Place, they accompanied each other to *Worcester*, where the Wedding was soon celebrated. The same Day Mrs. *Catherine Hayes* had the Fortune to meet with some of her *Quondam* Acquaintance, who had before dropped her at *Ombersley*, and were now quartered at *Worcester*; they understanding she was that Day married, and where the Nuptials were to be solemnized, consulted among themselves how to make a Penny of the *Bridegroom*; accordingly, deferring the Execution of their Intentions 'till the Evening, just as Mr. *Hayes* was got into Bed to his Wife, they coming to the House

House where he lodg'd, forcibly entered the Room, and dragged the *Bridegroom* away, pretending to impress him for her Majesty's Service. This proceeding broke the Measures Mr. *John Hayes* had concerted with his *Bride*, to keep their Wedding Secret; for finding no Redemption from their Hands, without the Expence of a larger Sum of Money than he was Master of, he was necessitated to let his Father know of his Misfortune. Mr. *Hayes* hearing of his Son's Adventures, as well of his Marriage as his being pressed at the same time; his Resentment for the one did not extinguish his Affection for him as a Father, but that he resolved to deliver him from his Troubles; and accordingly taking a Gentleman in the Neighbourhood along with him, he went for *Worcester*; at their Arrival there, they found Mr. *John Hayes* in the Hands of the Officers, who insisted upon the detaining him for her Majesty's Service, but his Father and the Gentleman he brought with him by his Authority, soon made them sensible of their Errors, and instead of making a Benefit of him, as they proposed, were glad to discharge him, which they did immediately. Mr. *Hayes* having acted thus far in Favour of his Son, then expressed his Resentment for having married without his Consent;

but it being too late to prevent it, there was no other Remedy but to bear with the same. For some time afterwards Mr. *Hayes* and his Bride living in the Neighbourhood, he following his Business as a Carpenter, his Father and Mother grew more reconcil'd. But Mrs. *Catherine Hayes*, who better approved of a Travelling than a settled Life, persuaded her Husband to enter himself a Volunteer, in a Regiment then at *Worcester*, which he did, and went abroad with them, where he continued for some time.

Mr. *John Hayes* being in Garrison in the *Isle of Wight*, Mrs. *Hayes* took an Opportunity of going over thither, and continued with him for some time, till Mr. *Hayes* not content with such a lazy, indolent Life, wherein he could find no Advantage, unless it were the gratifying his Wife; solicited his Father to procure his Discharge, which at length he was prevail'd upon to consent to, but found much Difficulty in perfecting the same; for the several Journeys he was necessitated to undertake, before it could be done, and the Expences of procuring such Discharge, amounted to about Sixty Pound; but having at last, at this great Expence and Trouble, procured his Son's Release; Mr. *John Hayes* and his Wife returned into *Worcestershire*, and his Father the better to induce him to settle

settle himself in Business in the Country, put him into an Estate of Ten Pound *per Annum*, hoping that, with the Benefit of his Trade, would enable them to live handsomely and creditably, and change her roving Inclinations, he being sensible that his Son's Ramble had been occasion'd through his Wife's Perswasions; but Mr. *John Hayes* representing to his Father, that it was not possible for him and his Wife to live on that Estate only, perswaded his Father to let him have another also, a *Leasehold* of Sixteen Pound *per Annum*; upon which he lived during the Continuance of the *Lease*; his Father paying the *Annual* Rent thereof 'till it expired. The Characters of Mr. *John Hayes* and his Wife were vastly different, he had the Repute of a sober, sedate, honest, quiet, peaceable Man, and a very good Husband; the only Objection his Friends would admit of against him was, that he was of too parsimonious and frugal Temper, and that he was rather too indulgent of his Wife, who repaid his Kindness with ill Usage, and frequently very opprobrious Language.

As to his Wife, she was on all Hands allowed to be a very turbulent, vexatious Person, always setting People together by the Ears, and never free from Quarrels and Controversies in the Neighbourhood, giving

ill Advice, and fomenting Disputes to the Disturbance of all her Friends and Acquaintance. This Unhappiness in her Temper induced Mr. *John Hayes's* Relations to persuade him to settle in some remote Place, at a Distance from and unknown to her for some time, to see if that would have any Effect upon her turbulent Disposition; but Mr. *Hayes* would not approve of that Advice, nor consent to a Separation; in this Manner they liv'd for the Space of about six Years, until the *Lease* of the last mentioned Farm expired; about which Time, Mrs. *Hayes* persuaded Mr. *John Hayes* to leave the Country and come to *London*, which about Twelvemonths afterwards, through her Persuasions he did, in the Year 1719. Upon their Arrival in Town they took a House, part of which they let out in Lodgings, and sold Sea-Coal, Chandlery Ware, &c. whereby they liv'd in a creditable manner, and tho' Mr. *Hayes* was of a very indulgent Temper, yet she was so unhappy as to be frequently jarring, and a change of Climate having made no Alteration in her Temper, she continued her same passionate Nature, and had frequently Bickerings and Disputes with her Neighbours, as well in Town as before in the Country.

IN this Business they picked up Money, and Mr. *Hayes* received the yearly Rent of the first mentioned Estate, tho' in Town; and by lending out Money in small Sums amongst his Country People improved the same considerably: She would frequently in speaking of Mr. *Hayes* to his Friends and Acquaintance give him the best of Characters, and commend him for an indulgent Husband; notwithstanding which, to some of her particular Cronies who knew not Mr. *Hayes's* Temper, she would exclaim against him, and told them particularly above a Year before the Murther was committed, that it was no more Sin to kill him (meaning her Husband) than to kill a *Mad Dog*, and that one Time or other she might give him a Polt. Afterwards they removed into *Tottenham Court Road*, where they lived for some Time, following the same Business as formerly, from whence about two Years afterwards they removed into *Tyburn Road*, a few Doors above where the Murther was committed. There they lived about twelve Months, Mr. *Hayes* supporting himself chiefly in lending out Money upon pledges, and sometimes Working at his Profession, and in Husbandry, till it was computed he had picked up a pretty handsome Sum of Money. About ten Months before the Murder, they

removed a little lower to the House of Mr. *Whinyard*, where the Murther was committed, taking Lodgings up two Pair of Stairs, there it was, that *Thomas Billings*, by Trade a *Taylor*, who wrought Journey-work in and about *Monmouth-street*; under pretence of being Mrs. *Hayes's* Countryman came to see them, they invited him to lodge with them; he did so, and continued in the House about six Weeks before the Death of Mr. *Hayes*. He had Occasion to go a little Way out of Town, of which his Wife gave her Associates immediate Notice, and they thereupon flocked thither to junket with her 'till the Time they expected his Return; some of the Neighbours out of Ill-will, which they bore the Woman, gave him Intelligence of it as soon as he came back, upon which they had abundance of high Words, and at last Mr. *Hayes* gave her a Blow or two; whether this Difference was in any Degree the Source of that Malice, which she afterwards vented upon him. About this Time *Thomas Wood*, who was a Neighbour's Son in the Country, and an intimate Acquaintance both of Mr. *Hayes* and his Wife, came to Town, and *Pressing* being at that Time very Hot, he was obliged to quit his Lodgings, and thereupon Mr. *Hayes* very kindly invited him to accept of the Conveniencies
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of theirs, promising him moreover, that as he was out of Business, he would recommend him to his Friends and Acquaintance, *Wood* accepted the Offer, and lay with *Billings*; in three or four Days Time Mrs. *Hayes* having taken every Opportunity to carress him, opened to him a Desire of being rid of her Husband, at which *Wood*, as he very well might, was exceedingly surprized, and demonstrated the Baseness as well as Cruelty, there would be, in such an Action, if committed by him, who besides the general Ties of Humanity, stood particularly oblig'd to him as his Neighbour and his Friend. Mrs. *Hayes* did not desist upon this, but in order to hush his Scruples, would fain have persuaded him that there was no more Sin in killing *Hayes*, than in killing a Brute-Beast, for that he was void of all Religion and Goodness, an Enemy to God, and therefore unworthy of his Protection; that he had killed a Man in the Country, and destroyed two of his and her Children, one of which was buried under an *Apple-Tree*, the other under a *Pear-Tree*, in the Country. To these fictitious Tales, she added another, which perhaps had the greatest Weight, *viz.* That if he were dead she should be the Mistress of fifteen hundred Pounds, and then, says she, *you may be Master thereof,*

if you will help to get him out of the Way ; Billings has agreed to it if you'll make a Third, and so all may be finished without Danger.

A few Days after this, Woods Occasions called him out of Town ; on his Return, which was on the first Day of March, he found Mr. Hayes and his Wife, and Billings, very merry together ; amongst other things which passed in Conversation, Mr. Hayes happened to say, that he and another Person once drank as much Wine between them, as came to a Guinea, without either of them being fuddled ; Billings upon this, proposed a Wager on these Terms, that half a Dozen Bottles of the best Mountain should be fetch'd, which if Mr. Hayes could drink without being disorder'd, then Billings should pay for it, but if not, then it should be at the Cost of Mr. Hayes, who accepting of this Proposal, Mrs. Hayes and the two Men went altogether to the Brawn's Head in New-Bond-street to fetch the Wine ; as they were going thither, she put them in Mind of the Proposition she had made them to Murder Mr. Hayes, and said they could not have a better Opportunity than at present, when he should be intoxicated with Liquor ; whereupon Wood made Answer, that it would be the most inhuman Act in the World to Mur-

Murder a Man in cool Blood, and that too when he was in Liquor: Mrs. *Hayes* had recourse to her old Arguments, and *Billings* joining with her, *Wood* suffer'd himself to be over-power'd. When they came to the *Tavern* they called for a Pint of the best *Mountain*, and after they had drank it order'd a Gallon and a Half to be sent home to their Lodgings; which was done accordingly, and Mrs. *Hayes* paid Ten Shillings and six Pence for it, which was what it came to; then they came all back and sat down together to see Mr. *Hayes* drink the Wager, and while he swallowed the Wine, they called for two or three full Pots of Beer, in order to entertain themselves. Mr. *Hayes* when he had almost finished his Wine, began to grow very merry, Singing and Dancing about the Room, with all the Gaity which is natural, and having taken a little too much Wine. But Mrs. *Hayes* was so fearful of his not having his Dose, sent away privately for another Bottle, of which having drank some also, it quite finished the Work, by depriving him totally of his Understanding; however, reeling into the other Room, he there threw himself a-cross the Bed, and fell fast asleep. No sooner did his Wife perceive it, than she came and excited the two Men to go in and do the Work; whereupon *Billings* taking

a Coal-Hatchet in his Hand, going into the other Room, struck Mr. *Hayes* therewith on the back of his Head, which Blow fractur'd the Skull, and made him thro' the Agony of the Pain, stamp violently upon the Ground, in so much that it alarmed the People who lay in the Garret; and *Wood* fearing the Consequence, went in and repeated the Blows, tho' that was needless since the first was Mortal of itself, and he already lay still and quiet. By this Time Mrs. *Springate*, whose Husband lodg'd over Mr. *Hayes's* Head, on hearing the Noise, came down to enquire the Reason of it, complaining at the same Time, that it so disturb'd her Family that they could not rest; Mrs. *Hayes* thereupon told her, that her Husband had had some Company with him, who growing merry with their Liquor were a little Noisy, but that they were going immediately, and desired she would be easy; upon this she went up again for the present, and the three Murderers began immediately to consult how to get rid of the Body; the Men were in so much Terror and Confusion, that they knew not what to do; but Mrs. *Hayes* quickly thought of an Expedient in which they all agreed. She said, that if the Head was cut off, there would not be near so much Difficulty in carrying off the Body, which could not be known;

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in order to put this Design in Execution, they got a Pail, she herself carrying the Candle, they all entered the Room where the deceased lay, then the Woman holding the Pail, *Billings* drew the Body by the Head over the Bed-side, that the Blood might bleed the more freely into it; and *Wood* with his Pocket Penknife cut it off; as soon as it was severed from the Body, and the Bleeding was over, they poured the Blood down a Wooden Sink at the Window, and after it several Pails of Water, in order to wash it quite away, that it might not be perceived in the Morning; however, their Precautions were not altogether effectual, for *Springate* the next Morning found several Clods of Blood, but not suspecting any thing of the matter, threw them away, neither had they escaped letting some Tokens of their Cruelty fall upon the Floor, stain'd the Wall of the Room, and even Spin up against the Sealing, which it may be supposed happened at the giving the first Blow; when they had finished this Decollation, they again consulted what was next to be done. Mrs. *Hayes* was for boiling it in a Pot till nothing but the Skull remained, which would effectually prevent any Body's knowing to whom it belonged; but the two Men thinking this too dilatory a Method, they resolved to put it in

a Pail, and go together and throw it in the Thames. Springate hearing a Bustling in Mr. Hayes's Room for some time, and then somebody going down Stairs, called again to know who it was, and what was the Occasion of it, (it being then about Eleven a-Clock) to which Mrs. Hayes answered, it was her Husband, who was going a Journey into the Country, and pretended to take a formal Leave of him, expressing her Sorrow that he was obliged to go out of Town at that time of Night, and her fear lest any Accident should attend him in his Journey. Billings and Wood being thus gone to dispose of the Head, went towards White-hall, intending to have thrown the same into the River there, but the Gates being shut up, they were obliged to go forward as far as Mr. Macreth's Wharf, near the Horse-Ferry at Westminster, where Billings setting down the Pail from under his Great Coat, Wood took up the same with the Head therein, and threw it into the Dock before the Wharf. It was expected the same would have been carried away by the Tide, but the Water being then ebbing, it was left behind. There were also some Lighters lying over-against the Dock, and one of the Lighter-Men walking then on board, saw them throw the Pail into the Dock, but by the Ob-

Obscurity of the Night, the Distance, and having no Suspicion, did not apprehend any thing of the Matter. Having thus done, they returned home again to Mrs. *Hayes's*, where they arrived about Twelve a-Clock, and being let in, found Mrs. *Hayes* had been very busily employed in washing the Floor, and scraping the Blood off from it, and from the Walls, &c. after which, they all three went into the Fore-Room, *Billings* and *Wood* went to Bed there, and Mrs. *Hayes* sat by them till Morning.

IN the Morning of the second of *March*, about the Dawning of the Day, one *Robinson* a *Watchman* saw a Man's Head lying in the *Dock*, and the Pail near it; his Surprise occasioned his calling some Persons to assist in taking up the Head, and finding the Pail bloody, they conjectured the Head had been brought thither in it; their Suspicions were fully confirmed therein by the *Lighter-Man*, who saw *Billings* and *Wood* throw the same into the *Dock*, as before-mentioned. It was now time for Mrs. *Hayes*, *Billings* and *Wood*, to consider how they should dispose of the Body; Mrs. *Hayes* and *Wood* proposed to put it in a Box, where it might lye concealed till a convenient Opportunity offered for removing it; this being approved of, Mrs. *Hayes* brought a
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Box, but upon their endeavouring to put it in, the Box was not big enough to hold it; they had before wrapped it up in a Blanket, out of which they took it; Mrs. *Hayes* proposed to cut off the Arms and Legs, and they again attempted to put it in, but the Box would not hold it; then they cut off the Thighs, and laying the Piece-Meat in the Box, concealed them 'till Night. In the mean time Mr. *Hayes's* Head, which had been found as before, had sufficiently alarmed the Town, and Information was given to the Neighbouring *Justices* of the Peace. The Parish Officers did all that was possible towards the Discovery of the Persons guilty of perpetrating so horrid an Action; they caus'd the Head to be cleaned, the Face to be washed from the Dirt and Blood, and the Hair to be combed, and then the Head to be set upon a Post in publick View in *St. Margaret's-Church-Yard, Westminster*, that every Body might have free access to see the same, with some of the Parish Officers to attend, hoping by that means a Discovery of the same might be attained. The *High Constable* of *Westminster* Liberty, also issued private Orders to all the *Petty Constables, Watchmen*, and other Officers of that District, to keep a strict Eye on all Coaches, Carts, &c. passing in the Night

Night through their Liberty, imagining that the Perpetrators of such a horrid Fact would endeavour to free themselves of the Body, in the same manner as they had done the Head. These Orders were executed for some time, with all the Secresy imaginable, under various Pretences, but unsuccessfully; the Head also continued to be exposed for some Days in the manner before described, which drew a prodigious Number of People to see it, but without attaining any Discovery of the Murderers. It would be impertinent to mention the various Opinions of the Town upon this Occasion, for they being founded upon Conjecture only, were far wide of the Truth: Many People either remembered or fancied they had seen that Face before, but none could tell where or who it belonged to. On the second of *March* in the Evening, *Catherine Hayes*, *Thomas Wood*, and *Thomas Billings*, took the Body and disjointed Members out of the Box, and wrapped them up in two Blankets, viz. the Body in one, and the Limbs in the other; then *Billings* and *Wood* first took up the Body, and about Nine a-Clock in the Evening carried it by Turns into *Mary-lé-bon-Fields*, and threw the same into a Pond, (which *Wood* in the Day time had been hunting for) and returning back again

again about Eleven a-Clock the same Night, took up the Limbs in the other old Blanket, and carried them by Turns to the same Place, throwing them in also ; about Twelve a-Clock the same Night, they returned back again, and knocking at the Door were let in by *Mary Springate*, they went up to bed in Mrs. *Hayes's* Fore-Room, and Mrs. *Hayes* staid with them all Night, sometimes sitting up, and sometimes lay down upon the Bed by them. The same Day one *Bennet*, the King's Organ-Maker's Apprentice, going to *Westminster* to see the Head, believed it to be Mr. *Hayes's*, he being intimately acquainted with him, and thereupon went and informed Mrs. *Hayes*, that the Head exposed to view in *St. Margaret's Church-Yard*, was so very like Mr. *Hayes*, that he believed it to be his ; upon which Mrs. *Hayes* asserted him that Mr. *Hayes* was very well, and reproved him very sharply for forming such an Opinion, telling him he must be very cautious how he raised such false and scandalous Reports, for that he might thereby bring himself into a great deal of Trouble. This Reprimand put a Stop to the Youth's saying any thing more about it, and having no other Reason than the Similitude of Faces, he said no more of it. The same Day also Mr. *Samuel Patrick* having been at *Westminster*

minster to see the Head, went from thence to Mr. Grainger's at the Dog and Dyel in Monmouth-street, where Mr. Hayes and his Wife were intimately acquainted, they and most of their Journeymen Servants being Worcester-shire People, Mr. Patrick told them that he had been to see the Head, and that in his Opinion it was the most like to their Countryman Hayes of any he ever saw.

BILLINGS being there then at Work, some of the Servants replied it could not be his, because there being one of Mrs. Hayes's Lodgers (meaning Billings) then at Work, they should have heard of it by him if Mr. Hayes had been missing, or any Accident had happen'd to him, to which Billings made Answer, that Mr. Hayes was then alive and well, and that he left him in Bed, when he came to work in the Morning. The third Day of March, Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a white Coat and a pair of Leathern Breeches of Mr. Hayes's, which he carried with him to Greenford, near Harrow on the Hill, Mrs. Springate observing Wood carrying these Things down Stairs, bundled up in a white Cloth, whereupon she told Mrs. Hayes that Wood was gone down with a Bundle, Mrs. Hayes replied it was a Suit of Cloaths he had borrowed of a Neighbour, and was going to carry them home again.

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On the Fourth of *March*, one Mrs. *Longmore* coming to visit Mrs. *Hayes*, enquired how Mr. *Hayes* did, and where he was; Mrs. *Hayes* answered, that he was gone to take a walk, and then enquired what News there was about Town. Her Visiter told her that most Peoples Discourse run upon the *Man's Head* that had been found at *Westminster*, Mrs. *Hayes* seemed to wonder very much at the wickedness of the Age, and exclaimed vehemently against such barbarous Murderers, adding, here is a Discourse too in our Neighbourhood, of a Woman who has been found in the Fields, mangled and cut to pieces; it may be so reply'd, Mrs. *Longmore*, but I have heard nothing of it. The next Day *Wood* came again to Town, and applied himself to his Landlady Mrs. *Hayes*, who gave him a pair of Shoes, a pair of Stockings and a Waistcoat of the Deceased, and Five Shillings in Money, telling him she would continue to supply him whenever he wanted; she informed him also of her Husband's Head being found, and that though it had been for some Time exposed, yet no Body had owned it. On the Sixth of *March*, the *Parish Officers* considering that it might putrify if it continued longer in the Air, agreed with one Mr. *Westbrook*, a Surgeon, to have it preserved in Spirits; He

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having accordingly provided a proper Glass, put it therein, and shewed it to all Persons who were desirous of seeing; yet the Murder remained still undiscover'd; and notwithstanding the Multitude which had seen it, yet none pretended to be directly positive to the Face, tho' many agreed in their having seen it before.

IN the mean Time Mrs. Hayes quitted her Lodgings, and removed from where the Murther was committed to Mr. Jones's a *Distiller* in the Neighbourhood, with *Billings*, *Wood*, and *Springate*, for whom she paid one Quarters Rent at her old Lodgings. During which Time she employ'd herself in getting as much of her Husbands Effects as possible she could; and amongst other Papers and Securities, finding a Bond due to Mr. Hayes from *John Davis*, who had married Mr. Hayes's Sister; she consulted how to get in that Money: To which Purpose she sent for one Mr. *Leonard Myring* a Barber, and told him, that she knowing him to be her Husband's particular Friend and Acquaintance; and he then being under some Misfortunes, thro' which she feared he would not presently return, she knew not how to recover several Sums of Money that were due to her Husband, unless by sending fictitious Letters in his Name, to the several
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Persons from whom the same were due. Mr. *Myring* considering the Consequences of such a Proceeding declined it. But she prevailed upon some other Person to write Letters in Mr. *Hayes's* Name, particularly one to his Mother, on the 14th of *March*, to demand Ten Pounds of the abovementioned Mr. *Davis*, threatening if he refused, to sue him for it. This Letter Mr. *Hayes's* Mother received, and acquainting her Son-in-Law *Davis*, with the Contents thereof; he offered to pay the Money on sending down the Bond, of which she by a Letter acquainted Mrs. *Hayes* on the Twenty-second of the same Month. During these Transactions, several Persons came daily to Mr. *Westbrook's* to see the Head. A poor Woman at *King Island*, whose Husband had been missing the Day before it was found, was one amongst them; she at first Sight fancied it bore some Resemblance to that of her Husband, but was not positive enough to swear to it; yet her Suspicion at first was sufficient to ground a Report, which flew about the Town in the Evening, and some Enquiries were made after the Body of the Person to whom it was supposed to belong, but to no purpose. Mrs. *Hayes* in the mean while took all the Pains imaginable to propagate a Story of Mr. *Hayes's* withdrawing
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on Account of an unlucky Blow he had given a Person in a Quarrel, and which made him apprehensive of a Prosecution, though he was then intreaty with the Widow in order to make it up; this Story she at first told with many Injunctions of Secresy, to Persons who she had good Reason to believe, would notwithstanding her Injunctions tell it again. It happened in the Interim, that one Mr. *Joseph Ashby*, who had been an intimate Acquaintance of Mr. *Hayes's*, came to see her; she with a great deal of pretended Concern, communicated the Tale she had framed to him. Mr. *Ashby* asked whether the Person he had killed was him to whom the Head belonged, she said, *No, the Man who died by Mr. Hayes's Blow was buried entire, and Mr. Hayes had given, or was about to give a Security to pay the Widow Fifteen Pound per Annum to bush it up.* Mr. *Ashby* enquired next, *where Mr. Hayes was gone*, she said, *to Portugal, with three or four foreign Gentlemen*; and he thereupon took his Leave. But going from thence to Mr. *Henry Longmore's*, Cousin to Mr. *Hayes*, he related to him the Story Mrs. *Hayes* had told him, and expressed a good deal of Dissatisfaction thereat, desiring Mr. *Longmore* to go to her and make the same Enquiry as he had done, but without taking Notice they had

had seen one another. Mr. Longmore went thereupon directly to Mrs. Hayes's, and enquired in a peremptory Tone for her Husband, she in answer said, *she supposed Mr. Ashby had acquainted him with the Misfortune which had befallen him*; Mr. Longmore replied, *he had not seen Mr. Ashby for a considerable time, and knew nothing of his Cousin's Misfortune, not judging of any that could attend him, for he believed he was not indebted to any body*; he then asked if he was in Prison for Debt? She answered him, *No, 'twas worse than that*. Mr. Longmore demanded what worse could befall him? As to any Debts, he believed he had not contracted any; at which she blessed God, and said, *that neither Mr. Hayes, nor herself owed a Farthing to any Person in the World*. Mr. Longmore again importuning her to know what he had done, to Occasion his absconding so, saying, *I suppose he had not murdered any Body?* To which she replied, *he had*, and beckoning him to come on the Stairs, related to him the Story as beforementioned. Mr. Longmore being inquisitive which way he was gone; she told him into *Herefordshire*, that Mr. Hayes had taken four Pocket Pistols with him for his Security, *viz.* one under each Arm, and two in his Pockets; Mr. Longmore answered, *'twould be dangerous for him*

him to travel in that manner, that any Person seeing him so armed with Pistols, would cause him to be apprehended on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, to which she assured him, that it was his usual manner; the Reason of it was, that he had like to been robbed coming out of the Country, and that once he was apprehended on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, but that a Gentleman who knew him, accidentally came in, and seeing him in Custody, passed his Word for his Appearance, by which he was discharged. Mr. Longmore to that made Answer, that it was very improbable of his ever being stopped on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, and discharged upon a Man's only passing his Word for his Appearance; he farther persisted which way he was supplied with Money for his Journey? She told him, *she had sowed Twenty-six Guineas into his Cloaths, and that he had about him seventeen Shillings in new Silver*, she added, that Springate who lodged there was privy to the whole Transaction, for which Reason she paid a Quarter's Rent for her at her old Lodgings, and the better to maintain what she had averred, called Springate to justify the Truth of it. In concluding the Discourse, she reflected on the unkind Usage of Mr. Hayes towards her, which surprized Mr. Longmore,

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had seen one another. Mr. Longmore went thereupon directly to Mrs. Hayes's, and enquired in a peremptory Tone for her Husband, she in answer said, *she supposed Mr. Ashby had acquainted him with the Misfortune which had befallen him*; Mr. Longmore replied, *he had not seen Mr. Ashby for a considerable time, and knew nothing of his Cousin's Misfortune, not judging of any that could attend him, for he believed he was not indebted to any Body*; he then asked if he was in Prison for Debt? She answered him, *No, 'twas worse than that*. Mr. Longmore demanded what worse could befall him? As to any Debts, he believed he had not contracted any; at which she blessed God, and said, *that neither Mr. Hayes, nor herself owed a Farthing to any Person in the World*. Mr. Longmore again importuning her to know what he had done, to Occasion his absconding so, saying, *I suppose he had not murdered any Body*? To which she replied, *he had*, and beckoning him to come on the Stairs, related to him the Story as beforementioned. Mr. Longmore being inquisitive which way he was gone; she told him into *Herefordshire*, that Mr. Hayes had taken four Pocket Pistols with him for his Security, *viz.* one under each Arm, and two in his Pockets; Mr. Longmore answered, *'twould be dangerous for him*

him to travel in that manner, that any Person seeing him so armed with Pistols, would cause him to be apprehended on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, to which she assured him, that it was his usual manner; the Reason of it was, that he had like to been robbed coming out of the Country, and that once he was apprehended on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, but that a Gentleman who knew him, accidentally came in, and seeing him in Custody, passed his Word for his Appearance, by which he was discharged. Mr. Longmore to that made Answer, that it was very improbable of his ever being stopped on Suspicion of being an *Highwayman*, and discharged upon a Man's only passing his Word for his Appearance; he farther persisted which way he was supplied with Money for his Journey? She told him, *she had sowed Twenty-six Guineas into his Cloaths, and that he had about him seventeen Shillings in new Silver*, she added, that Springate who lodged there was privy to the whole Transaction, for which Reason she paid a Quarter's Rent for her at her old Lodgings, and the better to maintain what she had averred, called Springate to justify the Truth of it. In concluding the Discourse, she reflected on the unkind Usage of Mr. Hayes towards her, which surprized Mr. Longmore,

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more than any thing else she had said yet, and strengthened his Suspicion, because he had often been a Witness to her giving Mr. *Hayes* the best of Characters, viz. of a most indulgent tender Husband.

Mr. *Longmore* then took his Leave of her and returned back to his Friend Mr. *Asbby*; when after comparing their several Notes together, they judged by every apparent Reasons that Mr. *Hayes* must have had very ill play shewen him; upon which they agreed to go to Mr. *Eaton* a Life-Guardman, who was also an Acquaintance of Mr. *Hayes's*, which accordingly they did, intending him to have gone to Mrs. *Hayes* also, to have heard what Relation she would give him concerning her Husband; they went and enquired at several Places for him, but he was not then to be found; upon which Mr. *Longmore* and Mr. *Asbby* went down to *Westminster* to see the Head at Mr. *Westbrooks*; when they came there, Mr. *Westbrook* told them that the Head had been owned by a Woman from *Kingland*, who thought it to be her Husband, but was not certain enough to swear it, tho' the Circumstances were strong, because he had been missing from the Day before the Head was found; they desired to see it, and Mr. *Asbby* first went up Stairs to look on it, and coming down, told Mr.

Long-

Longmore he really thought it to be *Mr. Hayes's Head*; upon which *Mr. Longmore* went up to see it, and after examining it more particularly than *Mr. Ashby*, confirmed him in his Suspicion; then they returned to seek out *Mr. Eaton*, and finding him at Home, informed him of their Proceedings, with the sufficient Reasons upon which their Suspicions were grounded, and compelled him to go with them to enquire into the Affair. *Mr. Eaton* pressed them to stay Dinner with him, which at first they agreed to, but afterwards altering their Minds, went all down to *Mr. Longmore's* House, and there renewed the Reasons of their Suspicions; not only of *Mr. Hayes's* being murder'd (being satisfied with seeing the Head) but also that his Wife was Privy to the same; but in order to be more fully satisfied, they agreed that *Mr. Eaton* should in a Day or two's time go and enquire for *Mr. Hayes*, but withal taking no Notice of his having seen *Mr. Longmore* and *Mr. Ashby*. In the mean time *Mr. Longmore's* Brother interferred, saying, that it seemed apparent to him, that his Cousin (*Mr. Hayes*) had been murdered, and that *Mrs. Hayes* appeared very suspicious to him of being Guilty, with some other Persons, viz *Wood* and *Billings*, (who she told him, had drank with

him the Night before his Journey) he added moreover, that he thought Time was not to be delayed, because they might remove from their Lodgings upon the least apprehensions of a Discovery.

His Opinion prevailed as the most reasonable; and Mr. Longmore said, they would go about it immediately; accordingly to Mr. Justice Lambert he immediately applied, and acquainted him with the Grounds of their Suspensions, and their Desire of his granting a Warrant for the Apprehension of the Parties. The Justice on hearing the Story, not only readily agreed with them on their Suspensions, and complied with their Demand, but said also, he would get proper Officers to execute it in the Evening, about Nine a-Clock; putting Mrs. Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, into a special Warrant for that Purpose. At the Hour appointed they met, and Mr. Eaton bringing two Officers of the Guards along with him, they went altogether to the House where Mrs. Hayes lodg'd; they went directly in, and up Stairs, at which Mr. Jones who kept the House, immediately demanded, who, and what they were; he was answered, that they were sufficiently authorized in all they did, desiring him at the same time to bring Candles, and he

he should soon see on what Occasion they came. Light being thereupon brought, they went all up Stairs together; Justice Lambert wrapped at Mrs. Hayes's Door with his Cane, she demanded who was there, for that she was in Bed, on which she was bid to get up and open it, or they would break it open: After some little time taken to put on her Cloaths, she came and opened it, as soon as they were in the Room they seized her and *Billings*, who was sitting upon her Bed side, without either Shoes or Stockings on. The Justice asked whether he had been in Bed with her, she said no, but that he sat there to mend his Stockings; why then reply'd Mr. Lambert, he had very good Eyes to see to do it without Fire or Candle; whereupon they seiz'd him too, and leaving Persons below to guard them, went up and Apprehended *Springate*; and after an Examination in which they would confess nothing, committed *Billings* to New-Prison, *Springate* to the Gate-House, and Mrs. Hayes to *Tothill-Fields Bridwell*.

THE Consciousness of her own Guilt made Mrs. Hayes very Assiduous in contriving such a Method of Behaviour as might carry the greatest Appearance of Innocence. In the first place therefore, she entreated Mr. Longmore that she might be admitted to

see the Head, in which Request she was indulged by Mr. Lambert, who ordered her to have a Sight of it as she came from Tot-bill-Fields-Bridewell to her Examination; accordingly Mr. Longmore attending the Officers to bring Mrs. Hayes from thence the next Day to Mr. Lamberts, ordered the Coach to stop at Mr. Westbrook's Door, and as soon as he entered the House, being admitted into the Room, threw her self down upon her Knees, crying out in great Agonies, Oh it is my dear Husband's Head! it is my dear Husband's Head! and embracing the Glass in her Arms, kissed the outside of it several Times. In the mean time Mr. Westbrook coming in, told her, that if it was his Head she should have a plainer View of it, that he would take it out of the Glass for her to have a full Sight of it, which he did, by lifting it up by the Hair and brought it to her, she taking it in her Arms, kissed it, and seemed in great Confusion, withal begging to have a Lock of his Hair, but Mr. Westbrook replied, that he was afraid she had had too much of his Blood already; At which she fainted away, and after recovering, was carried to Mr. Lamberts, to be examined before him and some other Justices of the Peace. While these Things were in Agitation, one Mr. Huddle and his
Servant

Servant walking in *Mary-le-bone Fields* in the Evening, espied something lying in one of the Ponds in the Fields, which after they had examined, found to be the *Legs, Thighs,* and *Arms* of a Man. They being very much surprized at this, determined to search farther; and the next Morning getting Assistance drained the Pond, where to their great Astonishment they pulled out the Body of a Man wrapped up in a *Blanket*, with the News of which, while Mrs. *Hayes* was under Examination, Mr. *Crosby* a Constable, came down to the Justices, not doubting but this was the Body of Mr. *Hayes* which he had found thus mangled and dismembered: Yet tho' she was somewhat confounded at the new Discovery made hereby, of the Cruelty with which her late Husband had been treated, she could not however be prevailed on to make any Discovery or Acknowledgment of her knowing any thing of the Fact; whereupon the Justices who examined her, committed her that Afternoon to *Newgate*, the Mob attending her thither with loud Acclamations of Joy at her Commitment, and ardent Wishes of her coming to a just Punishment, as if they were already convinc'd of her Guilt.

SUNDAY Morning following, *Thomas Wood* came to Town from *Greenford* near

Harrow having heard nothing farther of the Affair, or of the taking up of *Mrs. Hayes*, *Billings* or *Springate*. The first Place he went to was, *Mrs. Hays's* old Lodging; there he was answer'd that she was removed to *Mr. Jones's* a Distiller, a little farther in the Street; thither he went, where the People knowing him to be the other Person suspected of the Murther, said *Mrs. Hayes* was gone to the *Green Dragon* in *King street*, which is *Mr. Longmore's* House, and a Man who was there told him moreover that he was going thither and would shew him the way. *Wood* being on Horseback followed him, and he led him the way to *Mr. Longmore's* House, at which time *Mr. Longmore's* Brother coming to the Door, and seeing *Wood*, immediately seized him, and unhorsing him dragged him in Doors, sent for Officers and charged them with him on suspicion of the Murder; from whence he was carried before *Mr. Justice Lambert*, who asked him many Questions in Relation to the Murther, confess nothing, whereupon he was committed to *Tothil-Fields Bridewell*. While he was there he heard the various Reports of Persons concerning the Murther, and from those, Judging it impossible to prevent a full Discovery, or evade the Proofs that were against him, he resolved to make an ample

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Confession of the whole Affair, of which Mr. Lambert being acquainted, he, with John Mobun and Thomas Salt, Esqs; two other Justices of the Peace, went to Totbills-Fields Bridewell, to take his Examination, in which he seem'd very ingenious and ample, declaring all the particulars before mention'd, with this Addition, that Catherine Hayes was the first promoter of, and a great Assistant in several Parts of this horrid Affair; that he had been drawn into the Commission thereof partly through Poverty, and partly thro' her crafty Insinuations, who by feeding them with Liquors, had spirited them up to the Commission of such a piece of Barbarity: He farther acknowledged, that ever since the Commission of the Fact he had had no Peace, but a continual torment of Mind, that that very Day, before he came from Greenford, he was fully persuaded within himself that he should be siezed for the Murther when he came to Town, and should never see Greenford more, notwithstanding which he could not refrain coming, tho' under an unexpected Certainty of being taken, and dying for the Fact. Having thus made a full and ample Confession, and signed the same, on the 27th of March, his Mitimus was made by Justice Lambert, and he was committed to Newgate, whether he was car-

ried under a Guard of a Serjeant and eight Soldiers, with Muskets and Bayonets, to keep off the Mob, who were so exasperated against the Actors of such a piece of Barbarity, that without that Caution it would have been very difficult to have carried him thither alive. On *Monday* the 28th of *March*, after Mrs. *Hayes* was committed to *Newgate*, being the Day after *Wood's* Apprehension, *Joseph Mercer* going to see Mrs. *Hayes*, she told him as he was *Thomas Billings's* Friend as well as hers, she desired he would go to him and tell him, 'twas in vain to deny any longer the Murder of her Husband, for they were equally Guilty, and both must die for it: *Billings* hearing this, and that *Wood* was Apprehended and had fully confess'd the whole Affairs, thought it needless to persist any longer in a Denial, and therefore the next Day being the 29th of *March*, he made a full and plain Discovery of the whole Fact, agreeing with *Wood* in all the Particulars, which Confession was made and signed in the presence of *Gideon Harvey* and *Oliver Lambert*, Esqs; two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, whereupon he was removed to *Newgate* the same Day that *Wood* was. *Wood* and *Billings* by their several Confessions acquitting *Springate* of having any concern in the aforesaid Murder,
She

She was soon discharged from her Confinement; but this Discovery making a great Noise in the Town, divers of Mrs. Hayes's Acquaintance went to visit her in *Newgate*, and examining as to the Reasons and Motives that induced her to commit the said Fact. Her Acknowledgment in general was, that Mr. Hayes had proved but an indifferent Husband to her; that one Night he came home drunk and struck her, that upon complaining to *Billings* and *Wood*, they, or one of them said, such a Fellow (meaning Mr. Hayes) ought not to live, and that they would Murder him for a half-penny: She took that Opportunity to propose her bloody Intentions to them, and her willingness that they should do so, that she was acquainted with their Design, heard the Blow given to Mr. Hayes by *Billings*, and then went with *Wood* to them into the Room; that she held the Candle while his Head was cut off, and in Excuse for this bloody Fact, said the Devil was got into them all that made them do it. When she was made sensible that her Crime in Law was not only Murther, but petty Treason, she began to shew great Concern indeed; making very strict Enquiries into the Nature of the Proof which was necessary to convict, has having possessed her self with a Notion, that unless

it appeared she murdered him with her own Hands, it would not touch her Life, and therefore she was very Angry that either *Billings* or *Wood*, should by their Confession acknowledge her Guilty of the Murder, and thereby subject her to that Punishment which of all others she most feared, often repeating it, that it was hard they would not suffer her to be hanged with him! When she was told of the common Report, that *Billings* was her Son, she affected at first to make a great Mystery of it, said, he was her own Flesh and Blood indeed, but that he did not know how nearly he was related to her himself; at other times she said she would never disown him while she lived, and shew'd a greater Tenderneſs for him than for her self, and sent every Day to the *Condemn'd Hold* where he lay, to enquire after his Health; but two or three Days before her Death, she became as the *Ordinary* tells us a little more sincere in this Respect, affirming that he was not only her Child, but *Mr. Hayes's* also, tho' put only to another Person, with whom he was bred up in the Country, and called him Father.

THERE are generally a Sett of People about most Prisons, and especially about *Newgate*, who get their Living by imposing on unhappy Criminals, and perswading them, that

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that Guilt may be covered, and Justice avoided, by certain artful Contrivances in which they profess themselves Masters; some of these had got access to this unhappy Woman, and had instilled into her a Notion, that the Confession of *Wood* and *Billings* could no ways affect her Life; this made her vainly imagine, that there was no positive Proof against her, and that Circumstantials only, would not convict her. For this Reason she resolved to put herself upon her Trial (contrary to her first Intentions; for that having been asked what she would do, she had replied, *she would hold up her Hand at the Bar and plead Guilty, for the whole World could not save her*) accordingly being arraigned, she pleaded not Guilty, and put herself upon her Trial. *Wood* and *Billings*, both pleaded Guilty to the same Indictment; at the same Time acknowledging their Guilt, and desired to make Attonement for the same by the Loss of their Blood, only praying the Court would be graciously pleased to favour them so much (in regard they had made an ingenious Confession) as to dispense with their being hang'd in Chains. Mrs. *Hayes* having thus put herself upon her Trial; the King's Council opened the Indictment, setting forth the Heinousness of the Fact, the premedi-

tated Intentions, and inhuman Method of acting it; that his Majesty for the more effectual Prosecution of such vile Offenders, and out of a tender Regard to the Peace and Welfare of all his Subjects, and that the Actors and Perpetrators of such unheard of Barbarities, might be brought to condign Punishment, had given them Directions to prosecute the Prisoners. Then *Richard Bromage, Robert Wilkins, Leonard Myring, Joseph Mercer, John Blakesby, Mary Springate, and Richard Bows*, were called into Court; the Substance of whose Evidence against the Prisoner was, that the Prisoner being interrogated about the Murther, when in Newgate, said, *the Devil put it into her Head; but however, John Hayes was none of the best of Husbands, for she had been half starv'd ever since she was married to him; that she did not in the least repent of any thing she had done, but only in drawing those two poor Men into this Misfortune; that she was six Weeks importuning them to do it, that they denied it two or three Times, but at last agreed; her Husband was so drunk that he fell out of his Chair, then Billings and Wood carried him into the next Room, and laid him upon the Bed, that she was not in that Room, but in the Fore-Room on the same Floor when he was killed, but they told her, Billings*
struck

struck him twice on the Head with a Pole Ax, and that then Wood cut his Throat; that when he was quite dead, she went in and held the Candle whilst Wood cut his Head quite off, and afterwards they chopped off his Legs and Arms, that they wanted to get him into an old Chest, but he was too long and too big; they thought to have done it by cutting off only his Legs and Head, but were forced to cut off his Thighs and Arms, and then the Chest would not hold them all; the Body and Limbs were put into Blankets at several times the next Night, and thrown into a Pond; that the Devil was in them all, and they were all got drunk; that it would signify nothing to make a long Preamble, she could hold up her Hand, and say she was Guilty, for nothing could save her, no body could forgive her; that the Men who did the Murther were taken, and confessed it; that she was not with them when they did it; that she was sitting by the Fire in the Shop upon a Stook; that she heard the Blow given and some-body stamp; that she did not cry out, for fear they should kill her; that after the Head was cut off it, was put into a Pail, and Wood carried it out, that Billings sat down by her and cried, and would lie all the rest of the Night in the Room with the dead Body; that the first Occasion of this Design to murther him was, because he came

came home one Night and beat her; upon which Billings said, this Fellow deserves to be killed, and Wood said, he'd be his Butcher for a Penny, that she told them they might do as they wou'd, but did not think they wou'd do it that Night it was done; that she did not tell her Husband of the Design to murder him, for fear he should beat her; that she sent to Billings to let him know, it was in vain to deny the Murder of her Husband any longer, for they were both Guilty, and must both die for it. Many other Circumstances equally strong with those before-mentioned appeared, and a Cloud of Witnesses; many of whom, the thing appearing so plain, were sent away unexamined. She herself confessed at the Bar, her previous Knowledge of their Intent several Days before the Fact was committed; yet foolishly insisted on her Innocence, because the Fact was not committed by her own Hands; the Jury without staying long to consider of it, found her Guilty, and she was taken from the Bar in a very weak and faint Condition. On her return to Newgate, she was visited by several Persons of her Acquaintance, who yet were so far from doing her any Good, that they rather interrupted her in those Preparations which it became a Woman in her sad Condition to make. One old Gentleman indeed, who
seemed

seemed to have no other Motive in Curio-
 sity in coming to see her, took an Oppor-
 tunity of discoursing to her in these Terms;
 which as I myself over heard, and as I think
 they may not want their Uses on other Oc-
 casions, I have carefully inserted. " Mrs.
 " Hayes, you see the Clamour of the World
 " is very strong against you, and tho' com-
 " mon Fame be very indifferent Evidence in
 " some Cases; yet in so much as yours is, it
 " is a Sign of more than ordinary Guilt;
 " because the common Sort, being unable
 " to distinguish nicely, generally pity every
 " body whom they see under Affliction;
 " unless there be a peculiar Degree of Wick-
 " edness in what they have been guilty of;
 " such as seems to transcend the Malignity
 " of human Nature, and hath consequently
 " rendered the Criminal unworthy of hu-
 " man Regard. Consider then, if such be
 " the Sentiments of the *Publick*, what should
 " yours be? If the Noise of your Cruelty
 " hath struck them with Terror, should
 " it not inspire you with Repentance, and if
 " the Death of Mr. Hayes with the bloody
 " Circumstances which attend it, can so far
 " move those who had no Acquaintance
 " with, or so much as knew by Sight, what
 " effect ought it to have on you, who af-
 " ter having been his Companion and his
 " Wife

“ Wife for so many Years, have at last be-
“ come his *Murderers*, and imbrued your
“ Hands in that Blood, which you should
“ have considered as your own. I knowing
“ very well that you have high Notions of
“ your own Innocence, because it was not
“ from your Hands that he received his
“ Death’s Wound; yet you cannot deny
“ that those who gave it received their Di-
“ rections from you. The Conviction of
“ their own Hearts, hath induced them to
“ offer their Blood to atone for his.
“ Twelve impartial Men have found you
“ also to be guilty of his Death; and I do
“ not think so meanly of your Reason, as
“ to believe you have any Hopes of hav-
“ ing your Sentence stay’d. Reflect then
“ a little, if these Artifices cannot prevail,
“ even with a credulous World, or take
“ any Place in the Opinion of Twelve Men,
“ utterly unbias’d in their Verdict against
“ you, how should you expect they should
“ yet cover you from the Wrath of God,
“ and illude that Judgment, with which
“ he hath threatned Sinners. The small
“ Time you have to live, forbids trifling, and
“ every Moment that passes, calls upon you
“ to employ it so, as by Penitence to escape
“ his Vengeance. Lay then aside such
“ Notions as these are, confess with Truth
“ the

“ the Circumstances of that cruel Act of
 “ which you have been guilty, and after
 “ losing all Hopes in the World, apply
 “ yourself steadily to make sure of Happi-
 “ ness in that which is to come; humbly
 “ intreat that merciful Being, whose Crea-
 “ ture thou hast destroyed, to have pity on
 “ thy Conditon, and by submitting patient-
 “ ly unto that terrible Punishment, which
 “ the Law hath appointed for your Crimes,
 “ atone for this Murther, suffering the fear
 “ of your approaching Death, to work no
 “ otherwise on your Mind, than urging you
 “ by Prayers and a sincere Repentance to
 “ avoid eternal Death from the Sentence of
 “ him, at whose Tribunal you are quickly
 “ to appear, as *God* is a *God* of Justice, pre-
 “ sume not hastily to think you have se-
 “ cured his Pardon, and as he is a *God* of
 “ Mercy, let not even your Offences make
 “ you despair; but by the Piety and Re-
 “ signation of your last Moment’s Efface
 “ the Memory of your guilty Life.”

WHEN they were brought up to receive
 Sentence, *Wood* and *Billings* renewed their
 former Requests to the Court, that they
 might not be hung in Chains. *Mrs. Hayes*
 also made use of her former Assertion, that
 she was not Guilty of actually committing
 the Fact, and therefore begged of the Court,
 that

that she might at least have so much Mercy shewn her, as not to be burnt alive. The Judges then proceeded in the Manner prescribed by Law, that is, they sentenced the two Men with the other Malefactors to be hang'd, and Mrs. Hayes, as in all Cases of *Petit-Treason* to die by Fire at a Stake; at which she screamed, and being carried back to *Newgate*, fell into violent Agonies. When the other Criminals were brought thither after Sentence passed, the Men were confin'd in the same Place with the rest in their Condition, but Mrs. Hayes was put into a Place by herself, which was at that time the Apartment allotted to Women under Condemnation. Perhaps no body ever kept their Thoughts so long and so closely united to the World, as appeared by the frequent Messages she sent to *Wood* and *Billings*, in the Place where they were confined; and that Tenderness which she expressed for both of them, preferable to any Concern she shewed for her own Misfortunes, lamenting in the softest Terms of having involved those two poor Men in the Commission of a Fact, for which they were now to lose their Lives. In which indeed, they deserv'd Pity, since as I shall shew hereafter, they were Persons of unblemished Characters, and of virtuous Inclinations, untill misled by her.

As to the Sense she had of her own Circumstances, there has been scarce any inner State known to behave with so much Indifference; she said often, that Death was neither grievous nor terrible to her in itself, but was in some Degree shocking from the Manner in which she was to die. Her Fondness for *Billings*, hurried her into Indecencies of a very extraordinary Nature, such as sitting with her Hand in his, at *Chappel*, leaning upon his Shoulder, and refusing upon being Reprimanded; for giving Offence to the Congregation to make any Amendment in Respect of these shocking Passages, between her and the Murderers of her Husband, but on the contrary, she persisted in them to the very Minute of her Death; one of her last Expressions, being to enquire of the *Executioner*, whether he had hang'd her dear Child; and this, as she was going from the Sledge to the Stake, so strong and lasting were the Passions of this Woman.

THE *Friday* Night before her Execution (being assured she should die on the *Monday* following) she attempted to make away with herself, to which purpose she had procured a Bottle of strong *Poison*, designing to have taken the same; but a Woman who was in the Place with her touching it with her Lips, found it burnt them to an extra-

extraordinary Degree, and spilling a little on her Handkerchief, perceived it burnt that also; upon which suspecting her Intentions, she broke the Viol, whereby her Design was frustrated. On the Day of her Execution she was at Prayers, and received the Sacrament in the Chappel, where she still shewed her Tenderneſs for *Billings*. About Twelve, the Prisoners were severally carried away for Execution; *Billings* with eight others for various Crimes were put into three Carts, and *Catherine Hayes* was drawn upon a Sledge to the Place of Execution; where being arrived, *Billings* with eight others, after having had ſome time for their private Devotions were turned off. After which, *Catherine Hayes* being brought to the Stake, was chained thereto with an Iron Chain, running round her Waist and under her Arms, and a Rope about her Neck, which was drawn through a Hole in the Post, then the Faggets intermixed with light brusk Wood and Straw, being piled all round her, the Executioner put Fire thereto in ſeveral Places, which immediately blazing out, as ſoon as the ſame reached her, with her Arms ſhe pushed down thoſe which were before her, when ſhe appeared in the Middle of the Flames as low as her Waist; the Executioner got hold of the End of the Cord

Cord which were round her Neck, and pulled it tight, in order to strangle her, but the Fire soon reached his Hand and burnt it, so that he was obliged to let it go again; more Faggets were immediately thrown upon her, and in about three or four Hours she was reduced to Ashes; in the mean time *Billings's* Irons were put upon him as he was hanging on the Gallows; after which being cut down, he was carried to the *Gibbet*, about one hundred Yards Distance, and there hung up in Chains.



The LIFE of THOMAS BILLINGS,
a Murderer.



HOUGH we have said so much of this Malefactor in the foregoing Life, yet it was necessary in order to preserve the Connection of that barbarous Story, to leave the particular Consideration of these two Assistants in the Murther of *Mr. Hayes*, to particular Chapters, and therefore we will begin with *Billings*; *Mrs. Hayes* some time before her Execution, confidently averred,

averred, that he was the Son both of Mr. *Hayes* and of herself; that his Father not liking him, he was put out to Relations of hers, and took the Name of *Billings* from his God-father; but Mr. *Hayes's* Relations confidently denying all this, and he himself saying he knew nothing more, than that he called a *Shoemaker, Father*, in the Country, who is some time since dead; himself being put Apprentice to a *Taylor* with whom he served his Time, and then came up to London to Work Journey-work, which he did in *Monmouth-street*, Lodging at Mr. *Hayes's*, and believed himself nearly related to his Wife, who from the Influence she always maintained over him, drew him to the Commission of that horrid Fact.

BUT the most certain Opinion is, that he was found in a Basket upon the *Common*, near the Place where Mrs. *Hayes* liv'd before she married Mr. *Hayes*; that he was at the time of his Death about 22 or 23 Years old; whereas it evidently appeared by her own Confession, that she had been married to Mr. *Hayes* but twenty Years and eight Months; he was put out to Nurse by the Charge of the *Parish*, to People whose Names were *Billings*, and when he was big enough to go Apprentice, was bound to one Mr. *Werberland* a *Taylor*, to whom the *Parish* gave forty Shillings


Shillings with him; 'tis very probable he might be a natural Son of Mr. *Hayes's* born in her Rambles (of which we have hinted before) her Marriage, and dropped by her in the Place where he was found.

As to the Character of *Billings*, he was always reputed in the Country, a sober, honest, industrious young Man; during the time he had worked in Town, he had done nothing to impeach that Reputation which he brought up with him, and might possibly have liv'd very happily, if he had not fallen into the Temptation of this unfortunate Woman, who seems to have been born for her own undoing, and for the Destruction of others. Whatever Knowledge he might have of that Relation in which he stood to Mrs. *Hayes*, certain it is, that she always preserved such an Authority over him, that in her presence he would never answer any Questions, but constantly referred himself to her, or kept an obstinate silence; he affected also, a strange Fondness for her kissing her Cheek when she fainted in the Chapel at *Newgate*, and behaving himself when near her, in such a Manner as gave great Offence to the Spectators. As to the Remorse he had for the horrid Crime he had committed, those who had Occasion to know him while under Confinement, thought him sincere therein; but the

the *Ordinary* whose Place it is to be supreme Judge in these Matters ; told the World in his Account of the Behaviour and Confession of the Malefactors, that he was a confused Hard-hearted Fellow, and had few external Signs of Penitence ; and a little farther when possibly he was in a better Humour, he says, that in all appearance he was very Penitent for his Sins, and died in the *Communion* of the *Church* of *England*, of which he owned himself an unworthy Member.



The *LIFE* of THOMAS WOOD, a
Murderer.

 HIS Malefactor *Thomas Wood*, was born at a Place called *Ombersty*, between *Ludlow* and *Wortester*, of Parents in very indifferent Circumstances, who were therefore able to give him but little Education ; he was bred up to no settled Business, but labour'd in all such Country Employments as require only a robust Body for their Performance. When the Summers Work was over, he used to as-
list

sist as a *Tapster* at *Inns* and *Alehouses* in the Neighbourhood of the Village where he was Born, and by the Industry, Care, and Regularity which he observed in all things, gained a very great Reputation as an honest and faithful Servant with all that knew him.

HIS Mother having been left in a needy Condition, with several small Children; She set up a little *Alehouse* in order to get Bread for them; *Thomas* was very Dutiful, and as his Diligence enabled him to save a little Money, so he was by no means backwards in giving her all the Assistance that was in his Power: Some few Months before his Death, he grew desirous of coming up to *London*, which he did accordingly, and worked at whatsoever Employment he could get both with Fidelity and Diligence; but a Fleet being then fitting out for the *Mediterranean*, Press-Warrants were granted for the Manning thereof, and the Diligence that was used in putting them in Execution, gave so great uneasiness to *Wood*, who having no settled Business, was afraid of falling into their Hands; whereupon he bethought himself of his Country-man Mr. *Hayes*, to whom he applied for his Advice and Assistance; Mr. *Hayes* kindly invited him to live with them in order to avoid that Danger, and he accordingly lay with Mr.

Billings, as has been before related. Mr. *Hayes* was moreover so desirous of doing him Service, that he applied himself to finding out such Persons as wanted Labourers in order to get him into Business, while Mrs. *Hayes* in the mean time made use of every Blandishment, to seduce the Fellow into following her wicked Inclinations, perceiving, that both *Billings* and *He* had stronger Religious Principles than is common with ordinary Persons; she artfully made even those Persons Dispositions, subservient to her Brutal and Inhuman Purpose.

It seems Mr. *Hayes* had fallen within a few Years of his Death, into the Company of some who called themselves *Free-Thinkers*, and fancy an Excellency in their own Understandings, because they are able to ridicule those Things which the rest of the World think Sacred; tho' it is no great Conquest to obtrude the belief of any Thing whatsoever, on Persons of small Parts and little Education, yet they Triumph greatly therein, and communicate the same Humour of boasting in their Pupils. Mr. *Hayes* had now and then let fall some rash Expressions, as to his Disbelief of the *Immortality* of the *Soul*, and talked in such a Manner on religious *Topicks*, that Mrs. *Hayes* persuaded *Billings* and *Wood* therefrom, that he was an
Atheist,

Thieft, and as he believed his own *Soul* of no greater Value than that of a brute Beasts, there could be no Difference between killing him and them. It must indeed be acknowledged that there was no less Oddity in such Propositions than in those of her Husband; however, it prevailed it seems with these unfortunate Men, and as she had already persuaded them it was no Sin, so when they were intoxicated with Liquor, she found it less difficult than at any other Time, to deprive them also of the Humanity, and engage them in perpetrating a Fact, so opposite to not only Religion, but to the natural Tenderness of the human Species; *Wood* as he yielded to her persuasions with Reluctance, so he was the First who shewed any true Remorse of Conscience for that cruel Act of which he had been Guilty: His Confession of it being free and voluntary, and at the same time full and ingenuous; two Days after receiving Sentence, his Constitution began to give way to the violence of a Feavourish Distemper, which by a natural Death prevented his Execution, he dying in *Newgate*, in the 28th year of his Age, much more pitied than either *Billings* or Mrs. *Hayes* who suffer'd at *Tyburn*. And thus with *Wood* we put a Period to the Relation of a *Tragedy* which surprized the World ex-

ceedingly at the time it happened, and will doubtless be read with Horrour in succeeding Generations.



The LIFE of CAPTAIN JAEN, a Murderer.



HOUGH there is not perhaps any Sins so opposite to our Nature as Cruelty towards our *Fellow-Creatures*; yet we see it so thoroughly established in some Tempers, that neither Education nor a Sense of Religion are strong enough to abate it, much less to wear it out; the Person of whom we are now speaking *John Jaen* was the Son of Parents in very good Circumstances at *Bristol*, they bred him in the Knowledge of every thing requisite to a Person who was to be bred up in Trade, and he grew a very tolerable Proficient, as well in the Knowledge of the *Latin Tongue*, as in *Writing* and *Accompts* for his Improvement, in all which he was put under the best of Masters; when he had finished that course of Learning, which his Friends thought

CAPTAIN JAEN, a Murderer. 245

thought would qualify him for what they design'd him, he was immediatel put Apprentice to a *Cooper* in *Bristol*, where he served his Time with both Fidelity and Industry; when it was expired, he applied himself to Trade with the same Diligence, and sometimes went to *Sea*, till in the Year 24 he became Master of a Ship, called the *Burnett*, fitted out by some Merchants at *Bristol*, for *South-Carolina*. In his Return from which Voyage he committed the Murther for which he died.

ON the 25th of *April* 1726, an *Admiralty Sessions* was held at the *Old-Bailey*, before the Hon. Sir *Henry Penrice*, Judge of the *High Court of Admiralty*, assisted by the Honourable Mr. *Baron Hale*, at which Capt. *Creagh* was indicted for Feloniously sinking the good Ship called the *Friendship*, of which he was Commander, but there appearing no Grounds for such a Charge, he was acquitted: Afterwards Capt. *John Jaen* of *Bristol*, was set to the Bar, and arraigned on an Indictment for wilfully and inhumanly murdering one *Richard Pye*, who had been his *Cabin-Boy* in the Month of *March*, in the Year 1724. It appeared by the Evidence produced against him, that he either whipped the Boy himself, or caused him to be whipped every Day during the Voyage

that he caused him to be tied to the *Main-Mast* with Ropes for nine Days together, extending his Arms and Legs to the utmost, whipping him with a *Cat* (as it is called) of Five small Cords till he was all bloody, then causing his Wounds to be several times washed with *Brine* and *Pickle*; under this terrible Usage, the poor Wretch grew soon after Speechless; the *Captain* notwithstanding, continued his cruel Usage, stamping, beating and abusing him, and even obliging him to eat his own *Excrements*, which forcing its way upwards again, the Boy in his Agony of Pain made signs for a *Dram*, whereupon, the *Captain* in Derision took a Glass, carried it into the *Cabin*, and made Water therein, and then brought it to the Boy to Drink, who rejected the same. The lamentable Condition in which he was, made no Impression on the *Captain*, who continued to treat him with the same Severity, by *whipping pickling, kicking, beating and bruising* him, while he lingered out his miserable Life; on the last Day of which he gave him 18 Lashes with the aforesaid *Cat* of five Tails, in a little Time after which the Boy died. The Evidence farther deposed, that when the Boys Body was sewing up in a *Hammock* to be thrown over board, it had in it as many Colours as there are in a *Rainbow*, that
his

his Flesh in many places was as soft as *Jelly*, and his Head swell'd as big as two; upon the whole it very fully appear'd that a more bloody premeditated and wilful Murther was never committed, and Sir *Henry Pennice* declared, that in all the Time he had had the Honour of sitting on the *Bench*, he never heard any thing like it, and hoped that no Person who should sit there after him, should ever hear of such an Offence.

UNDER Sentence of Death he behaved with a great deal of Piety and Resignation, tho' he did not frequent the publick *Chappel* for two Reasons, the *First*, because the Number of Strangers who were admitted thither to stare at such unhappy Persons as are to die, are always numerous and sometimes very indiscreet; the *Second* was, that he had many Enemies who took a Pleasure in coming to insult him, and as he was sure either of these would totally interrupt his Devotions, he thought it excusable to receive the Assistance of the *Minister* in his own Chamber. As to the general Offences of his Life, he was very open in his Confession, but as to the particular Fact for which he suffered, he endeavoured to excuse it, by saying, he never intended to Murther the Boy, but only to correct him as he deserved, being exceedingly wicked and unruly, he

charged him with thieving in their Voyage out, and being yet worse as they came home, and that particularly one Evening when he was a Sleep in the Cabin, the Lad broke open his Lockers, and took out a Bottle of Rum, of which he drank near a Pint, making himself thereby so Drunk, that his Excrements fell involuntarily from him, which stunk so abominably that it awaken'd him, (the Captain) whereupon he called in several of his Men, who found the Boy in a sad Condition, and were obliged to sit down and smook Tobacco, in order to overcome the stench he had rais'd. This produced the terrible Punishment of tying him to the Mast for several Days, and the offering him his Excrements which he rejected. Notwithstanding the Captain owned all this, yet he could not forbear Reflections on those who gave Testimony against him at his Trial, charging them with Perjury and Conspiracy to ruin him, tho' nothing like it appeared from the Manner in which they delivered their Testimony. As the time of his Death approached nearer, the Fear thereof, and remorse of Conscience, brought the Captain into so weak and low a State, that he could scarce speak or attend to any Discourses of Others, but lay in a languishing Condition, often fainting, and in Fine appearing not
unlike

unlike a Person who had been taken something to procure a sudden Death, in order to prevent an Ignominious one; yet when such suspicions were mentioned to him, he declared that they were without Ground, that he had never suffered such a Thought once to enter into his Head. His Wife who attended him constantly while in Prison, said, she loved him too well to become his *Executioner*, and that she was positive since his Commitment, he had had nothing unwholesome administered to him. As he was carrying to Execution, he was so very much spent, that it was thought he would hardly have lived to have reached it; there he had the Assistance of a *Minister of Distinction*, who prayed with him till the Instant he was thrown off, which was on the 13th Day of May, 1726, being then about 29 years of Age. As soon as he was cut down, he was put in *Chains*, in order to be hung up over against the *King's Powder-house*.





*The LIFE of WILLIAM BOURN,
a Notorious Thief.*



AS the want of Education appears from a multitude of Instances to be the chief Cause of many of those Misfortunes which befall Persons in the ordinary Course of Life, so there are some Born with such a natural Inaptitude thereto, that no Care, no Pains, is able to Conquer the stubborn Stupidity of this Nature, but like a knotty piece of Wood, they defy the Ingenuity of Others to frame any thing useful out of such cross grained Materials; this as he acknowledged himself upon all occasions, was the Case of the Malefactor we are now speaking off, who tho' he descended of honest and reputable Parents, who were willing in his younger Years to have furnished him with a tolerable share of Learning, but he was utterly incorrigible, and tho' put to a good *School*, would never be brought to Read or Write at all, which was no small dissatisfaction to his

his Parents, with whom in other Respects he agreed tolerable well. When of Age to be put out Apprentice, he was placed with a *Hatter* in the City of *Dublin*, to whom he served his Time honestly and faithfully; as soon as he was out of his Time, he came up to *London*, in order to become better Acquainted with his Business. He had the good luck tho' a Stranger, to get into good Business here, but was so unfortunate as to fall into the Acquaintance of two lewd Women, who fatally persuaded him that thieving was an easier way of getting Money to supply their extravagant Expences, than working; and he being a raw young Lad, unacquainted with the World, was so mad as to follow their Advice, and in consequence thereof snatched a *Shew-Glass* out of the Shop of Mr. *Lovell*, a Goldsmith, in *Bishop-Gate-Street*, in which there was four *Snuff-Boxes*, eight *Silver Medals*, six pair of *Gold Buttons*, five *Diamond Rings*, twenty pair of *Ear-Rings*, sixty four *Gold Rings*, several *Gold Chains*, and other rich Goods, to the amount of near 300*l.* with all of which he got safe off, tho' discovered soon afterwards by his Folly, in endeavouring to dispose of them. He threw aside all Hopes of Life as soon as he was Apprehended, as having no Friends to make Intercession likely

to procure a Pardon. He was indeed a poor young Creature, rather Stupid than Wicked, and his Vices more owing to his Folly than to the Malignity of his Inclinations; he seemed to have a just Notion both of the Heinousness of that Crime which he had committed, and of the Shame and Ignominy he had brought upon himself and his Relations. He was particularly Affected with the Miseries which were likely to fall upon his poor Wife for his Folly, and when the Day of his Death came, he seemed very easy and contented under it, Declaring however at last that he died in the *Communion* of the *Church of Rome*. On the 27th of *June*, 1726, being then not much above 18 Years old.



*The LIFE of JOHN MURREL a
Horse-stealer.*



HIS Malefactor was descended of very honest and reputable Parents, in the County of *Tork*, who took Care not only that he should read and write tolerably well, but also that he should be Instructed
in

JOHN MURREL, *Horse-stealer.* 253

in the *Principles of Religion* ; they brought him up in their own way of Business, which was *Grazing of Cattle*, both *Black Cattle* and *Horses*, and afterwards selling them at Market : As he grew up a Man, he settled in the same Occupation, Farming, what is called in *Yorkshire* a *Grazing Room*, for which he paid near a Hundred Pounds a Year Rent, and dealt very considerably himself in the same way which had been followed by his Parents. He married also a young Woman with a tolerable Fortune, who bore him several Children, five of which were alive at the Time of his *Execution*, and lived with their Mother upon some little Estate she had of her own, for some years next after his Marriage, he lived with tolerable Reputation in the Country, but being lavish in his Expences, he quickly consumed both his own little Fortune, and what he had with his Wife, and then failing in his Business, a whim took him in the Head to come to *London*, whither also he brought his Son ; here he soon fell into ill Company, and getting Acquaintance with a Woman, whom he thought was capable of maintaining him, he married her, or at least liv'd with her as if they had been married for a considerable Space ; the News of which reaching his Wife in the Country, affected her so much, that she

she had very nigh fallen into a Fit of Sickneſs; thereupon, her Friends demonſtrated to her in vain, how unreaſonable a thing it was for her to give herſelf ſo much Pain, about a Man who treated her at once with Unkindneſs and Injuſtice; in ſpight of their Demonſtrancies ſhe came up to London, in hopes her Preſence might reclaim him, but herein ſhe was utterly miſtaken, for he abſolutely denied her to be his Wife, and even perſwaded his Son to deny her alſo for his Mother, which the Boy with much fear and confuſion did; and the poor Woman was fore'd to go down into the Country again, overwhelmed with Sorrow at the ingratitude of the one, and the Undutiſulneſs of the other. However, *Murrel* liv'd ſtill on in the ſame way with the Woman he had choſen for his Compani-
on. There is all the Reaſon imaginable to ſuppoſe, that he did not take the moſt honeſt ways of ſupporting himſelf and his Miſtreſs; however, he fell into no trouble, nor is there any direct Evidence of his having been guilty of any Diſhoneſty within the reach of the Law, until he ran away with a Mare from a Man in Town, as to which he excuſed himſelf, by ſaying, ſhe had formerly been his own, and that there having been nothing more than a verbal Contract between them, he thought fit to
carry

carry her off and sell her again: Sometime afterwards, going down to *Newcastle-Fair*, for he still continued to carry on some dealings in Horse-Flesh; he fell there into the Company of some Merchants in the same way, who found means to get great Gains and sell very cheap, by paying nothing at the first Hand. Among these, there was a Countryman of his, who went by the Name of *Brown*, with whom *Murrel* had formerly had an Acquaintance; this Fellow knowing the Company in general, to be Persons of the same Profession, began to talk very freely of his Practices in that way, *viz.* of Horse-stealing, and amongst other Stories related this; he said, he once rode away with an Officer's Horse, who had just bought him with an Intent to ride him up to *London*, he carried the Creature into the *West*, and having made such Alterations in his Main and Tail as he thought proper, sold him there to a *Parson* for thirteen Guineas, which was about seven less than the Horse was worth, but knowing the *Doctor* had another Church about eight Miles from the Parish in which he liv'd, and that there was a little Stable at one *Angle* of the *Church-Yard*, where the Horse was put up during Service, he resolv'd to make bold with it again; accordingly when the People were all at Church, having
pro-

provided himself with a red Coat and a Horse, Soldiers Accutremments, he pick'd the Stable Door, clapped them on the *Priest's* Beast, and rode him without the least Suspicion, as hard as conveniently he could to *Worcester*; there he laid aside the Habit of a *Cavalier*, and transforming himself into the natural Appearance of a *Horse-Courser*, he sold the Horse to a *Physician*, telling him at the time he bought it, that it would be greatly the better, for being suffered to run at Grass a Fortnight or so, no doubt on it, said he; but I had some Design in so doing, yet they were much sooner executed than at first they were intended to have been, by an Accident which happened the very Day after the Beast came into the Hands of the *Physician*; for one Evening as *Brown* was taking a Walk in the Skirts of the City, who should he perceive but his old *Cornish Parson* and his Footman, jogging into Town; Guilt struck him immediately with Apprehensions at their Errand relating to him, so that walking up and down, not daring to go into the Town for fear of being taken up, and at last supposing it the only Way to rid him of Danger, he caught the Horse once more in the *Doctor's* Close, and having stole a Saddle and Bridle out of the Inn where he lodg'd, he rode on him as far as *Essex*; there he remained 'till
Nor-

JOHN MURREL, *Horse-stealer*. 257

Northampton-Fair, where he sold his Horse for the third time for twenty seven Guineas, to an Officer in the same Regiment with him, from whom it had been first stolen; on whose return from *Flanders* it was own'd, and the *Captain* who bought it, tho' he refused to lose his Money, yet gave as good a Description as he could of the Person who sold it; upon this the other Officer put out an Advertisement, describing both the Man and the Horse, and offering a Reward of Five Guineas for whoever should apprehend him. This Advertisement, rous'd both the *Parson* and the *Doctor*, and the former took so much Pains to discover him, that he was at length apprehended in *Cornwall*, where at the Assizes he was tried and convicted for the Fact; but the *Captain* who was the original Possessor of the Horse, was so much pleas'd with his Ingenuity, that he procured a Reprieve for him, and carried him abroad with him, where he continued until the Peace of *Utrecht*, when he returned home and fell to his old Way of Living, by which he had subsisted himself unto the Time in which he thus fell into Company with *Murrel*, and had then bought Five or Six fine Horses, which had been stolen from the *South*, to be dispos'd of at the Fair.

MUR-

MURREL lik'd the President, and put it in Practice immediately, by stealing a Brown Mare which belong'd to *Jonathan Wood*, for which he was shortly after apprehended and committed to *Newgate*. At the next Sessions at the *Old-Baily*, he was tried and convicted on very clear Evidence, and during the Space in which he lay under Condemnation, testified a true Sorrow for his Sins, tho' not so just a Sense of that for which he died, as he ought to have had, and which might have been reasonably expected; for as *Horse-stealing* did not appear any very great Sin to him, at the time of his committing it, so now when he was to die for it, such an obstinate Partiality towards ourselves, is there naturally grafted in human Nature; he could not forbear complaining of the Severity of the Law, and find fault with its Rigour, without considering how easily that Rigour might have been avoided. What seem'd most of all to afflict him under his Misfortune was, that he saw his Son and nearest Relations forsake him, and as much as they could, shun having any thing to do with his Affairs; of this he complain'd heavily to the Minister of the Place, during his Confinement in *Newgate*, who representing to him, how justly this had befallen him, for first slighting his Family, and leaving them without the least


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JOHN MURREL, *Horse-stealer.* 259

Tenderness or Respect, either to the Ties of a Husband, or the Duty of a Parent, he began to read his Sin in his Punishment, and to frame himself, to a due Submission to what he had so much merited by his Follies and his Crimes; when he was first brought up to receive Sentence, he counterfeited being dead so exactly, that he was brought up again to *Newgate*, but this Cheat served only to gain a little time; for at the next Sessions he was condemned and ordered for Execution, which he suffered on the 27th of *June*, 1726, being then between Forty and Fifty Years of Age.



The LIFE of WILLIAM HOLLIS,
a Thief and an House-Breaker.

 HIS unhappy Lad was born in *Portugal* while the *English* Army served there in the late Wars; his Father was *Drum-Major* of a Regiment, but had not wherewith, to give his Child any thing but Food, for intending to bring him up a *Soldier*, he perhaps thought Learning an unnecessary thing to one of that
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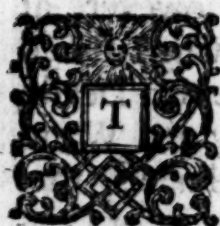
Profession ; during the first Years of his Life, the poor Boy was a constant Campaigner, being transported wherever the Regiment removed, with the same Care and Conveniency as the Kettle and Snapsack, the only thing besides himself, which made up the *Drum-Major's* Equipage ; when he grew big, he got it seems on board a Man of War in the Squadron that sailed up the *Mediterranean*, this was a proper University for one who had been bred in such a School ; so that there is no wonder he became so great a Proficient in all sorts of Wickedness, Gaming, Drinking, and Whoring, appear not to such poor Creatures as Sins, but as the Pleasures of Life, about which they ought to spend their whole Care ; and indeed how should it be otherwise, where they know nothing that better deserves it : When he came home to *England* his Father dying, he was left totally destitute, except what care his Mother-in-Law was pleas'd to take of him, which was indeed a great deal, if he would have been in any Degree obedient to her Instructions ; but instead of that, looking upon all Restraints or Liberty as the greatest Evil that could befall him ; wherefore leaving his Mother's House, he abandoned himself to procuring Money at any Rate to support those lewd Pleasures to which he had addicted himself :

self: It happened that he lodg'd near one *John Mattison*, a working *Silver-Smith*, into whose House he got, and stole from thence no less than one Hundred and Forty Silver Buckles, the Goods of one *Samuel Ashmelly*; for this Offence he was apprehended, and committed to *Newgate*; at the next Sessions he was tried, and on the Evidence of the Prosecutor which was very full and direct, he was convicted, and having no Friends, he laid aside all hopes of Life, and endeavoured as far as his poor Capacity would give him leave to improve himself in the Knowledge of the *Christian Faith*, and in preparing for that Death to which his Follies and his Crimes had brought him. The *Ordinary* in the Account he gives of his Death, says, that he was extremely stupid, a thing no ways improbable, considering the wretched Manner in which he had spent the Years of his Childhood and his Youth; however, at last either his Insensibility or having satisfied himself with the little Evil there is in Death, compared with living in Misery and Want, furnished him with so much Calmness, that he suffered with greater Appearance of Courage than could have been expected from him. Just before he died he stood up in the Cart, and turning himself to the Spectators, said, ' Good People, I am very young, but have
' been

' been very wicked, it is true, I had no Edu-
 ' cation, but I might have laboured hard
 ' and liv'd well for all that, but Gaming and
 ' ill Company were my ruin; the Law hath
 ' justly brought me where I am, and I hope
 ' such young Men as see my untimely Fate
 ' will avoid the Paths which lead unto it;
 ' good People, pray for our departing Souls,
 ' as we do, that God may give you all more
 ' Grace than to follow us thither; ' he suffer-
 ed with the Malefactors beforementioned, be-
 ing at the Time of his Execution between
 17 and 18 Years old.



The LIFE of THOMAS SMITH, a
Highwayman.



HERE is a certain commend-
 able Tenderness in Human
 Nature, towards all who are
 under Misfortunes, and this
 Tenderness is in proportion to
 the Magnitude of those Evils
 which we suppose the pitied Person to la-
 bour under; if we extend our Compassion to
 relieving their Necessities, and feeling a Re-
 gret

gret for those Miseries which they undergo ; we undoubtedly discharge the Duties of Humanity according to the *Scheme* both of natural Religion, and the Laws laid down in the *Gospel*, perhaps no Object ever merited it from juster Motives, than this poor Man, who is the subject of the following Pages. His Parents were People in tolerable Circumstances in *Southwark*, his Father was snatched from him by Death, while he was yet a Child, but his Mother as far as she was able was very careful that he should not pass his younger Days without Instructions, and an *Uncle* he then had, being pleased with the docile Temper of the Youth, was at some Expence also about his Education ; by this means he came to read and write tolerably well, and gained some little knowledge of the *Latin Tongue*, and having a peculiar sweetness in his Behaviour ; it won very much upon his Relations, and encouraged them to treat him with great Indulgence, but unfortunately for him ; by that Time he grew big enough to go out Apprentice, or to enter upon any other Method of Living, his Friends suddenly dropped off, and on their Death, becoming in great want of Money, he was forced to resign all the golden Hopes he had formed and for the sake of present Subsistence submit to becoming

Foot-

Footman to a Gentleman, who was however a very good and kind Master to him, till in about a Years time he died also, and poor *Smith* was again left at his Wits end. However out of this Trouble he was relieved by an *Irish Gentleman*, who took him into his Service, and carried him over with him to *Dublin*; there he met with abundance of Temptations to fall into that loose and lascivious Course of Life, which perhaps prevails more in that City, than in any other in *Europe*; but he had so much Grace at that Time as to resist it, and after a Stay there of twenty Months, returned into *England* again, where he came into the Service of a third Master, no less indulgent to him than the two former had been. In this last Service an odd Accident befell him, in which tho' I neither believe myself, nor incline to impose it on my Readers, that there was any thing Supernatural in the Case of it. I fancy the oddness of the Thing may, under the Story I am going to tell not disagreeable.

IN a Journey which *Thomas* had made into *Herefordshire* with his first Master, he had contracted there an Acquaintance with a young Woman, Daughter to a *Farmer*, in tolerable Circumstances. This *Girl*, without saying any thing to the Man, fell it seems desperately in love with him, and in about

THOMAS SMITH, a Highwayman. 265

about three Months after he left the Country he died. One Night after his coming to live with this last Master, he fancied he saw her in a Dream, that she stood for some time by his Bed-side, and at last said, *Thomas*, a Month or two hence you will be in danger of a *Fever*, and when that is over of a greater Misfortune, have a Care; you have hitherto always behaved as an honest Man, do not let either Poverty or Misfortunes tempt you to become otherwise, and having so said, she withdrew. In the Morning the Fellow was prodigiously confounded, yet made no Discovery of what had happen'd to any but the Person who lay with him, tho' the thing made a very strong impression on his Spirits, and might perhaps contribute not a little to his falling ill about the Time predicted by the *Phantom* he had seen.

THIS *Fever* soon brought him very low, and obliged him to make away with most of his Things in order to support himself; when upon the Recovery he found himself in lamentable Circumstances, being without *Friends*, without *Money*, and out of *Business*, unfortunately for him, coming along the *Hay-Market* one Evening, he happen'd to follow a Gentleman somewhat in Liquor, who knowing him, desired that he would

carry him home to his House in *St. Martins-Lane*, to which *Thomas* readily agreed; but as they were going along thither, a Crowd gathered about the Gentleman, who being as quarrellsome as they, took it into his Head to box one of the *Mob*, in order to the doing of which more conveniently, he gave *Smith* his *Hat*, his *Cane*, and his *Wig*; *Smith* held them for some time, the *Mob* forcing them along like a Torrent, till the Gentleman whose Name was *Brown* made up a Court near *Northumberland-House*, and *Smith* thereupon marched off with the things, the necessity he was under so far blinding him, that he made no scruple of attempting to sell them the next Day, by which means *Mr. Brown* hearing of them, he caused *Smith* to be Apprehended as a *Street-Robber*, and to be committed to *Newgate*, tho' he had the good Luck notwithstanding to get all his Things again. It seems he visited the poor Man in Prison, and if he did not prevaricate at his Death, made him some promises of softening at least, if not of dropping the Prosecution, which as *Smith* Asserted prevented his making such a Preparation for his Defence, as otherwise he might have done, which proved of very fatal Consequence to him, since on the Evidence of the *Prosecutor* he

THOMAS SMITH, *a Highwayman.* 267

he was convicted of the Robbery and condemned.

NEVER poor Creature suffered more or severer hardships in the Road of Death than this poor Man did, for by that time Sentence was passed, all that he had was gone, and he had scarce a *Blanket* to cover him from downright Nakedness, during the space he lay in the *Hold* under Sentence. As he was better principled in Religion, than any of the other Malefactors, had retained his Reading so well as to assist them in their Devotions, and to supply in some Measure the want of somebody constantly to attend them in their Preparations for another *World*; so he pick'd up thereby such little Assistances from amongst them, as prevented his being starved before the time appointed for their *Execution* came. As this Man did not want good Sense, and was far from having lost what Learning he had acquired in his Youth, so the Terrours of an ignominious Death were quickly over with him, and instead of being affrighted with his approaching Fate, he consider'd it only as a Relief from Miseries, the most piercing that a Man could feel, under which he had laboured so long, that Life was become a Burthen, and the Prospect of Death the only Comfort that was left. He died with the greatest

Appearance of Resolution and Tranquility
on the 3d of *August*, 1726, being then
about 23 years of Age.



The LIFE of EDWARD REYNOLDS,
a Thief, &c.



Otwithstanding the present Age is so much celebrated for its excellency in Knowledge and Politeness, yet I am persuaded both these Qualities, if they are really greater, are yet more restrained than they have been any Time heretofore whatsoever. The common People are totally Ignorant, almost, even of the first Principles of Religion. They give themselves up to *Debauchery* without Restraint, and what yet more Extraordinary, they fancy their Vices are great Qualifications, and look on all sorts of Wickedness as Merit. This poor Wretch who is the Subject of our present Page, was put to School by his Parents, who were in Circumstances mean enough, but from a natural Aversion to all Goodness; he absolutely declined making any Proficiency therein, whether he was E-
ducated

educated to any Business. I cannot take upon me to say, but he wrote at *Mop-making*, and carried them about to the *Country Fairs* for Sale, by which he got a Competency at least, and therefore had not by any means that ordinary Excuse to plead that Necessity had forced him upon Thieving, on the contrary he was drawn to the greatest part of those Evils, which he committed, and which consequently brought on those which he suffered, by frequenting the *Ring at Moor-Fields*: A Place which since it Occurs so often in these *Memoirs*, put me under a kind of Necessity to describe it, and the Customs of those who frequent it.

It lies between *upper* and *middle Moor-Fields*, and as People of Rank when they turn Vicious, frequent some Places where under pretence of seeing one Diversion in which perhaps there is no moral Evil, they either make Assignations for Lewdness, or Parties for *Gaming* or *Drinking*, and so by Degrees ruin their Estates, and leave the Character of *Debauchee's* behind them; so those of meaner Rank come thither to partake of the Diversions of *Cudgel-Playing*, *Wrestlings*, *Quoits*, and other robust Exercises, which are now and then softened by a Game at *Toss-up*, *Hustle-Cap*, or *Nine-Holes*, which quickly brings Want on, and

the Desire continuing naturally inclines them to look out for some means to recruit; and so when the Evening was spent in Gaming, the Night induces them to Thieve under its Cover, that they may have wherewith to supply the Expences of the ensuing Day; and hence it comes to pass that this Place and these Practices, hath ruined more young People, such as *Apprentices, Journey-men, Errand-Boys, &c.* than any other *Seminary* of Vice in Town; but 'tis time that we should now return to the Affairs of him who hath occasioned this Digression.

REYNOLDS in the Neighbourhood of this Place, found out a little *Ale-house* to which he every Night resorted; there were abundance of wicked Persons who used to meet there, in order to go upon their several villanous Ways of getting Money. Reynolds whose Head was always full of discovering some Method, by which he might live more at Ease than he did by Working; listened very attentively to what passed amongst them. One Barnham who had formerly been a *Waterman*, was highly distinguished at these Meetings, for his consummate Knowledge in every Branch of the *Art and Mystery of Cheating*. He had followed such Practices for near twenty Years, and commonly when they came there at Night, they

they formed a Ring about the Place where he sat, and listened with the greatest Delight to those Relations of evil Deeds, which his Memory recorded. It happened one Evening when these worthy Persons were assembled together, that their Orator took it in his Head to Harrangue them on their several Alterations which the *Science of Stealing* had gone through, from the time of his becoming Acquainted with its Professors. In former Days, said he, *Knights of the Road* were a kind of *Military Order*, into which none but decayed *Gentlemen* presumed to intrude themselves, if a *younger Brother* ran out his Allowance; or if a *young Heir* spent his *Estate* before he had bought a tolerable Understanding; if an under *Courtier* lived above his *Income*, or a *Subaltern Officer* laid out twice his *Pay* in rich Suits and fine Laces, this was the way they took to Recruit, and if they had but Money enough left to procure a good *Horse* and a *Case of Pistols*, there was no Fear of their keeping up their Figure a year or two, till their Faces were known, and then upon a Discovery, they generally had Friends good enough to prevent their Swinging, and whoten to one provided handsomely for them afterwards, for fear of their meeting with a second Mischance, and thereby bringing a

Stain upon their Family ; but now-a-Days a *Petty-Alehouse-keeper*, if he gives too much Credit, a *Cheese-Monger* whose Credit grows rotten, or a *Mechanick* that is weary of living by his Fingers Ends, makes no more ado, when he finds his Circumstances uneasy, whips into a Saddle, and thinks to get all things retrieved by the *Magick* of those two formidable Words, *Stand* and *Deliver* ; from whence the Profession is grown scandalous, since all the World knows, that the same Methods now make an *Highwayman*, that some Years ago would have got a C--m---s--n. But hark ye, says one of the Company, in the Days of those *Gentlemen Highwaymen*, was there no way left for a poor Man to get his Living out of the Road of Honesty ? Puh ! Ay, replied *Barnham*, a Hundred ; Men were more ingenious then, than they are now, and the Fellows were so dexterous, that it was dangerous for a Man to Laugh who had a good set of Teeth, for fear of having them stole ; they made nothing of whipping *Hats* and *Wigs* off at Noon-day, whipping *Swords* from Folks Sides when it grew Dusk, or making a Midnight visit, in tipight of *Locks*, *Bolts*, *Bars*, and such other little Impediments to old Misers, who kept his Gold molding in a Chest, till such honest Fellows at the hazard of their Lives, came

came to set it Liberty. For my part, continued he, I believe *Queen Anne's* War swept away the last remains of these brave Spirits; for since the Peace of *Utrac*, (as I think they call it) we have had a wonderous growth of *Blockheads*, even in our Business; and if it were not for *Shephard* and *Frazier*, a hundred year hence, they would not think that in our Times there were Fellows bold enough to get Six-pence out of a legal Road, or dare to do any thing without a *Quirk* of the Law to skreen them.

ALL his Auditors were wonderously pleased with such Discourses as these, and when the Liquor had a little warmed them would each in their Turns, tell a multitude of Stories they had heard of the *Boldness*, *Cunning*, and *Dexterity* of the Thieves who lived before them. In all Cases whatever, *Evil* is much sooner learnt than *Good*, and a Nights Debauch makes ten times a greater Impression on the Spirits, than the most eloquent Sermon. People between the Liquor and the Tales begin to form *new Ideas* to themselves of Things, and instead of looking on Robbery as a *Rapine*, and *Stealing* as that villainous Method of defrauding another; they on the contrary take the first for a Gallant Action, and the latter, for a dexterious piece of *Cunning*, by either of which they

acquire the means of indulging themselves in what best suits their Inclinations, without the fatigue of Business, or the Drudgery of hard Labour. *Reynolds*, tho' a very stupid Fellow, soon became a Convert to these Notions, and lost no time in putting them in Execution, for the next Night he took from a Person, who it seems knew him and his haunts well enough; the next Day a *Coat* and a *Shilling*, which when he came to be Indicted for the Fact, pretended were given him, to prevent his charging the Prosecutor, with an Attempt to commit *Sodomy*. An Excuse which is of late years grown as common with the Men, as it has long been with the Women, to pretend Money was given them for flogging Folks when they have been brought to the Bar, for picking it out of their Pockets; hoping by this Reverberation of Ignominy to blacken each other, that the *Jury* may believe neither; however, in this Case, it must be acknowledged, that *Reynolds* went to Death with this Assertion, that he received the *Coat* and the *Shilling* on the before-mentioned Account, and that he did not take it by Violence, which was the Crime whereof he was Convicted.

HE had married a poor Woman, who lived in very good Reputation both before
and

and after, by her he had three Children, and tho' he had long Associated himself with other Women, and left her to provide for the poor Infants, yet he was extreamly offended, because she did not send him Money as much as he wanted under his Confinement, and could not forbear treating her with very ill Language when she came to see him under his Misfortunes. As he was a Fellow of little Parts, and no Education, so his Behaviour under Codemnation was confused and unequal, as it is reasonable to suppose it should, since he had nothing to support his Hopes, or to Comfort him against those Fears of Death, which are inseperable from human Nature; however, he sometimes discovered an Inclination to learn somewhat of Religion, would listen attentively while *Smith* was reading, and as well as his gross Capacity would give him leave, would pray for *Mercy* and *Forgiveness*; at *Chapel* he behaved himself decently, if not devoutly, and being by his Misfortunes removed from the Company of those who seduced him first into his Vices. He began to have some *Idea* of the use of Life when he was going to leave it, and his Thoughts had received certain *Ideas*, tho' very imperfect ones, of Death in a future State, when the Punishment appointed by Law, sent him to experience

rience them ; he died on the 23d of *August* 1726, being then upwards of 26 Years of Age.



The LIFE of JOHN CLAXTON,
alias JOHNSTON, a *Thief*, &c.

THIS unhappy Malefactor was amongst the Number of those who through Want of Education was the more easily drawn into the Prosecution of such Practices as became fatal to him ; his Father was a common *Sailor* belonging to the Town of *Sunderland*, who had it not in his Power to breed him in a very extraordinary Manner, and what little he was able to do, was frustrated by the evil Inclinations of his Son, who instead of applying himself closely while he remained at School, loitered away his Time, and made little or no Proficiency there. His Head, as those of most *Seamens* Children do, ran continually on Voyages and seeing Foreign Countries, with which roving Temper, the Father too readily complied, and while yet a Boy, unacquainted

quainted with any Kind of Learning, and unsettled in the Principles of Religion, he was sent forth into the World to pick up either as he could. The first Voyage he made was up the *Streights*, where he touched at *Gibraltar*, and went soon after to *Leghorn*, the Port to which they were bound. Being a young sprightly Lad, the *Mate* carried him on Shore with him, and being a Man of Intrigue, made use of him to go between him and an *Irish* Woman, who was married to an *Italian* Captain of a Ship. At the Time they were in *Italy*, the Lady's Husband was in *Sicily*, and they therefore apprehended themselves to be secure; she proposed to the *Mate* the carrying off *Jewels* and other Things, to the Amount of some Thousand Crowns; and then flying with him from *Italy*. The Project had certainly succeeded, if it had not been for their Imprudence; for the *Mate*, who passed for her Cusin, being continually in the House for three Days before the Ship went away, a Suspicion entered into some of the Neighbours, as they often do amongst *Italians*, that there was something more than ordinary concealed under the Frequency of his Visits. They therefore dispatched a *Messenger* to Signior *Stephano di Calvo* the Captain's Brother, with an Account of their Surmises, who came immediately

mediately to *Leghorn*, and going directly to his Brothers House, found his Sister had pack'd up all his valuable Effects, and having loaded the Boy with as much as he could carry, was on the Point of setting out with him for the *Vessel*. *Stephano* dragged her back into an inner Apartment, where he lock'd her in, and afterwards fastened the Doors of the outward Apartment, through which they passed thither. But *Jack* seeing how Things went, laid down his Burden, and fled as hard as he could drive to the Port, where he gave Notice to his Master of their Disappointment, and caused the *Vessel* immediately to weigh Anchor, and stand to Sea, as fearing the Consequences of the Affair, which he knew would make a great Noise, and might possibly turn to the Detriment of his Owners. *Claxton* had hitherto done nothing that was criminal within the Eye of the Law, tho' while at Sea, he was continually imployed in some mischievous Trick or other. When he came into *England*, the Ship happened to go to *Tarmouth*, and as all Places were alike to him, so a short Stay there, engaged him to marry a young Woman, who had some little Matter of Money, with which he propos'd to do for himself some little Matter at Sea, and taking
the

the greatest Part of it with him, came up to London in order to see after a good Voyage.

BUT this was the most fatal Journey he ever made, for falling unfortunately into the Hands of ill Women, and their Companions, they quickly drew him to be as bad as themselves; so that forgetting the poor Woman he had married, and regardless of the Business which brought him up to Town, he gave himself up entirely to the Pursuit of such Villanies as they taught him, and in a short Space became as expert a Proficient as any in the Gang. Some of them had consulted together to rob a *Woodmonger's* House of a considerable Quantity of Plate, but there was one Difficulty to be encountered, without overcoming which, there was no Hopes of Success: The *Woodmonger's* Maid carried up the Keys every Night to her Master, the outer Court having a Gate to it, and unless they could fall upon some Stratagem either to prevent its being shut, to gain the means of unlocking it, their Attempt was certainly in vain; in order to bring this to pass, they put *Jack*, who was a neat little Fellow, into a very good Habit, and found Means to introduce him to the Acquaintance of the Wench at a neighbouring *Chandlers Shop*, where he took Lodgings, and in a Fortnight's Time prevail'd upon Mrs. *Anne* to come out

at

at Twelve of the Clock to meet him, which she could not do, without leaving the Great Gate a-jar, having first carried up the Key to her Master, tho' for her own Convenience she had thus left it upon a single Lock; while she and her *Sweetheart* were drinking *Punch*, and making merry together, the rest of the Confederates got into the House, and carried away Silver Plate to the Value of 80*l*. leaving every Thing behind them in so good Order, that the Maid who was a little tipsy into the Bargain, discovered nothing that Night, and going to acquaint her Lover with the Accident as soon as it was found out, she was to her great Surprize informed that he was removed, having carried away all his Things before his *Landlord* and *Landlady* were up. The Girl carefully concealed this Passage, knowing how fatal it would be to her, if it should reach her Master's Ears; but for her Spark, she heard no more of him, until his Commitment to *Newgate* for another Fact, for which he was ordered for Transportation.

BEING on Board the Vessel with the rest of the *Convicts*, he soon procured the Favour of the Master to be let to go out upon Deck, and being a strong able Sailor, ingratiated himself so far as to meet no worse Usage than any other Sailor in the Ship; on their
their

their Arrival at the *Canaries*, where by Stress of Weather they were obliged to put in, a Quarrel happened between the Master of their Vessel, and the Captain of a *Jamaica* Man homeward bound; it ended in a *Duel* with Sword and Pistol, and the Captain of the *Transports* having carried *John* with him, who behaved so well upon this Occasion, that he promised him his Liberty as soon as they arrived in *America*, which he honourably performed, and *Jack* was so indefatigable in his Endeavours to get home, that he arrived at *London* six Weeks before his *Captain* came back. He herded again with his old Crew, tho' before he was able to do much Mischief amongst them; he was apprehended for returning from Transportation, and was at the next Sessions for the same tried and convicted; by this Time the *Captain* who had carried him was arrived, and hearing of *John's* Misfortune, he made such Interest, as procured the Sentence of Death to be changed into a second Transportation; such narrow Escapes, one would have imagined, might have taught him how dangerous a Thing it was to dally with the Laws of the Nation in any respect whatsoever; and yet no sooner was he on Shoar in *New England*, where the Master took Care to provide him with as easy a Service


as a Man could have wished, but as soon as the *Captain's* Back was turned, he found Means to give the *Planter* the Slip, and in Nine Months Time revisited *London* a second Time. Whether he intended to have gone on in the old Trade or no, is impossible for us to determine, but this we are certain, that he had not been in *England* many Weeks, ere a Person who made it his Business to detect such as returned from *Transportation*, clapped him up in his old Lodging at *Newgate*, brought him to his Trial, and convicted him the third Time. As soon as he had received Sentence, he relinquished all Hopes of Life, and as in all this Time he had never made any Enquiry after his Wife at *Taxmouth*, so he would not now bring an *Odium* upon her and her Family by sending to them, and making his Misfortune publick in the Place where they lived. The Man seemed to be of an easy tractable Disposition, readily yeilding to whatever those who conversed with them desired to bring him to, whether it were good or evil. He attended with great seeming Piety and Devotion to the Books which *Thomas Smith* read to his Fellow Prisoners, and gain'd thereby a tolerable Notion of the Duty of *Repentance*, and that Faith which Men ought to have in *Jesus Christ*: Thus by Degrees he brought him-
self

JOHN CLAXTON, a Thief, &c. 283

self to a perfect Indifference as to Life or Death, and at the Place of Execution, shew-
ed neither by Change of Colour, or any
other *Symptom*, any extraordinary Fear of his
approaching Dissolution; and after having
conformed very devoutly to the Prayers said
by the *Ordinary*; after a short private De-
votion, submitted to his Fate with the afore-
mentioned Malefactors *Smith* and *Reynolds*,
being then about 28 Years old or there-
abouts.



The LIFE of MARY STANDFORD,
a Pick-Pocket and Thief.

 HIS unfortunate Woman, who
if herself said true, was born of
very good Parents, who sent
her to School, and caused her
to be bred up in every other
Respect, so as to be capable of performing
well in her Station of the World, and do-
ing her Duty towards God, from a just No-
tion of Religion; but it happening un-
luckily, that she setting her Mind on no-
thing so much as the Company of Young Men;
and

and running about with them to *Fairs*, and such other Country Diversions; her Friends were put under the Necessity of sending her up to *London*, a Thing to which they were always averse, until they saw it could not be avoided; when she came to *Town*, she got into one or two good Places, which she soon lost from her forward Behaviour; and having been seduced by a *Footman*, she soon became a common *Street-Walker*, and practis'd all the vile Arts of those Women who were a Scandal to their Sex; when she was young, she was tollerably handsome, and associating herself with one *Black Mary*, whose true Name was *Mary Rawlins*, a Woman of notorious ill Fame, and who from being kept by a Man of Substance in the City, by her own ill Management was turned upon the *Town*, and reduced to getting her Bread, after the infamous Manner of the *Inmates of Drury*. These two *Maries* used to walk together between *Temple Bar* and *Ludgate-Hill*, where sometimes they met with foolish young Fellows, out of whom they got considerable Sums, tho' at other Times their Adventures produced so little, that they were obliged to part with almost every Rag of Cloaths they had; nay, they were now and then reduced so low, that one was obliged to stay at home while the other went

MARY STANDFORD, a *Pick-pocket*. 285

went out. *Mary Rawlins*, contrary to the Rules establish'd amongst the Sisterhood, married a Man who had been a *Life-Guard-Man*, and so was obliged to remove her Lodgings to go with him into a little Court near *King's-street, Westminster*. Some of my Readers may perhaps imagine that either her Love for her Husband, or the fear of his Authority, might work a Reformation, but therein they would be highly mistaken, for he propos'd no other end to himself than plundering her of those Presents she received from her *Gallants*, so that whenever Evening drew on he was very assiduous for her to turn out, (as they phrase it) that is to go upon the *Street-walking Account*, picking up *Fellows*, and if opportunity serv'd picking their Pockets: She had not followed this Trade long, before she became so uneasy under it, that one Night meeting with her old Companion *Standford*, she perswaded her to remove into a new quarter of the Town, whither she fled to her from her Husband, and they there carry'd on their Intreagues together, and lived much more at their Ease than they had done before; for being now got towards *Wapping*, they drew in the *Sailors* when they had any Money to part with it for their Favours, and getting into Acquaintance with some *Navy Solicitors*, they found

found means to raise them Cash, at the rate of 60 per Cent to the Broker, and as much to the Whore.

THUS they lived till *Standford* took it in her Head to serve her Partner as she had done her before, for finding a Man mad enough to marry her, she was fool enough to consent to the Marriage, but after living with the Man for about half a year, she repented her Bargain, and left him as *Rawlins* had done hers; sometime after this, she contracted an Acquaintance with another Man, at that time Servant to a Person in the City, by him she had a Child, which as it encreased her necessary Expence, so it plunged her into the greater Difficulty of knowing how to supply it; however, fancying her Gains would be larger, if she plied by herself; she totally left the Company of her former Associates, and applied her self with an infamous Industry to her shameful Trade of *Prostitution*. Not long after she had entered upon this single method of *Street-walking*, she fell into the Company of a Gentleman, who was more than ordinary Amorous of her, and who after treating her with a Supper, lay with her, and as she said gave her four Guineas, but he on the contrary charged her with picking his Pocket of a *Shagreen Book*, a *Silk Handkerchief*, and the Money before-mentioned

mentioned, for this Fact she was committed to *Newgate*, and soon after tried and convicted, notwithstanding her Excuse of the Man's bestowing it on her as a present.

AFTER she had received Sentence, some of her Friends gave her Hopes of having it changed into a transportation Pardon, but this she rejected utterly, declaring that she had rather die, not only the most Ignominious, but the most cruel Death that could be invented at home, rather than be sent Abroad to slave for her Living; such strange Apprehensions enter into the Heads of these unhappy Creatures, and hinder them from taking the Advantage of the only possibility they have left of tasting Happiness on this side the *Grave*, and as this Aversion to the *Plantations* has so bad Effects, especially in making the Convicts desirous of escaping from the Vessel, or of flying out of the Country whither they were sent, almost before they have seen it. I am surpriz'd that no Care has been taken to print a particular and authentick Account, of the Manner in which they are treated in those Places; I know it may be suggested that the Terroure of such Usage as they are represented to meet with there, has often a good Effect in diverting them from such Facts as they know must bring them to Transportation, yet tho'

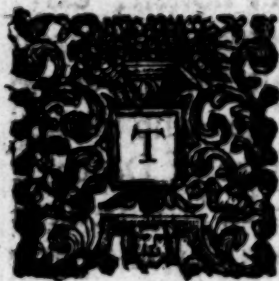
I confess I have heard this more than once repeated, yet I am far from being convinced even of the Matter of Fact, and I am thoroughly satisfied, that if instead of magnifying the Miseries of their pretended Slavery, or rather of inventing Stories that make a very easy service, pass on these unhappy Creatures for the severest Bondage. The *Convicts* were to be told the true state of the Case, and were put in Mind that instead of suffering Death, the Lenity of our Constitution, permitted them to be removed into another Climate, no way inferiour to that in which they were born, where they were to perform no harder tasks, than those who work honestly for their Bread in *England* do, and this not under Persons of another Nation, who might treat them with less Humanity upon that Account, but to their Countrymen, who are no less *English* for their living in the *New*, than if they dwelt in *Old England*, People famous for their Humanity, Justice and Piety, and amongst whom they are sure of meeting with no variation of *Manners, Customs, &c.* unless in respect of the Progress of their Vices which are at present, and may they long remain so, far less numerous there than in their Mother-Land. I say if Pains were taken to instill into these unhappy Persons such Notions at
the

the same time remonstrating to them, that from being exposed either to want and necessity from the loss they have sustained of this Reputation, and being thereby under a kind of Force, in following their old Courses, and as soon as discharged from the Fears of Death, (supposing a free Pardon could be procured) obliged to run a like Hazard immediately after, they might probably conceive justly of that Clemency which is extended towards them, and instead of shunning Transportation, flying from the Countries where they are landed, as soon as they have set their Foot in them, or neglecting Opportunities they might have on their first coming there, be brought to serve their Masters faithfully, to endure the Time of their Service chearfully, and settle afterwards in the best Manner they are able, so as to pass the Close of their Life in an honest, easy, and reputable Manner; whereas now it too often happens, that their last End is worse than their first, because those who return from Transportation being sure of Death if apprehended, are led thereby to behave themselves worse and more cruelly than any Malefactors whatsoever. But to return to *Mary Standford*, who led us into this Digression: She shewed little or no Regard for any thing; no, not even for her own Child,

who she said, ' she hoped would be well
 ' taken care of by the Parish, and added,
 ' that she had been a great Sinner, for
 ' which she hoped God would forgive her,'
 pray'd as well as she could, both while under
 Sentence and at the Place of Execution ;
 declared that she bore no Malice either a-
 gainst her Prosecutors, or any other Person ;
 and in this Disposition she finished her Life
 at *Tyburn*, the same Day with the afore-
 mentioned Malefactors, being at that time
 near 36 Years of Age.



*The LIFE of JOHN CARTWRIGHT,
 Private Thief.*



HIS unhappy young Man
 was born in *Torkshire* of a
 tolerable Family, who had
 been sufficiently careful in
 having him instructed in
 whatever was necessary for
 a Person of his Condition,
 breeding him up to all Works of Husbandry
 in general, and qualifying him in every re-
 spect for a Gentleman's Service also; in one
 of

of which Capacities, they were in hopes he would not find it difficult to get his Bread. He liv'd with several Persons in the Country without unspotted Reputation, 'till at last a Whim came into his Head of coming up to *London*. An Uncle of his procur'd him a very good Service with one Mr. *Chaurvin* a Mercer in *Pater-Noster-Row*, with whom he staid for some time with great Satisfaction on both sides; for his Master was highly pleas'd with the careful Industry of the young Man's Temper, and *Cartwright* on the other Side had not the least Reason to complain, considering the great Kindness and Indulgence with which he was us'd; but some young Fellows of loose Principles taking Notice of *Cartwright's* easy and tractable Temper, quickly drew him in to become fond of their Company and Conversation.

EVERY other *Sunday* he was permitted to go out where he would 'till Nine of Clock at Night, and these young Fellows meeting at a fine Ale-house not far from his Master's House, whither they began to bring *Yorkshire John* (as they call'd him) there they usually ran over the Description of the Diversions of the Town, and of those Places round about it, which are most Remarkable for the Resort of Company; these were

new Scenes to poor *John*, who was unacquainted with any Representation better than a *Puppet-show*, or Recreation of a superior Nature to *Bull-Baitings* or a *Country-Fair*, and therefore his Thoughts were extremely taken up with all he heard, and his Companions were so obliging, that they took abundance of Pains to satisfy such Questions as he ask'd them, and were often solliciting him to go and partake with them at *Plays*, *Dancing Bouts*, and all the various Divertisements, to which young unthinking Youths are addicted ; he wanted not many Intreaties to comply with their Request, but Money the main Ingredient in such Delights was wanting, and of this he at last acknowledged his Deficiency, to one of the young Men his Companions ; he took no Notice of it at that time, farther than to wish he had more, and to tell him, a young Man of his Spirit ought never to be without, and that there were ways enough to get it, if a Man had not as much Courage as Cash : He repeated these Insinuations often without explaining them at all, 'till frequent Stories of the fine Sights at the *Theatres* and elsewhere, had so far rais'd poor *John's* Curiosity, that he one Evening entreated his Companion to let him into the Bottom of what he meant ; the cunning Villain turn'd it at first into a Jest,

Jest, and continued to banter him about his being a *Country-Put*, and so forth, 'till he perceived it was past Twelve of Clock, and knew that it was too late for him to get in at Home; then he told him, ' That if he'd promise never to reveal it, he'd tell him ' what he meant. ' *John* being full of Liquor, swore he would not, and the other in return replied, why here, you stand complaining of the Want of Money, while, I warrant you, there's a hundred or two Pounds in your Master's Drawer under the Counter; may be there may (said *Cartwright*) but what's that to me? Nay, replied the other, nothing if you have not the Courage to go and fetch it; why now, you can get in I'm sure, come, I'll put you in a Way of never being taken. *Cartwright* was half drunk, remember'd that there was a Parcel of Gold in the Drawer, and that it was in his Power to get at a Silver-Watch and some Plate, so that he fatally yielded to the Temptations of his Companion, and thereupon the next Morning, conveyed to him the Watch, Fourscore Pounds in Money, and three Silver-Spoons; they shar'd the Booty of the greatest Part, of which *Cartwright* was quickly cheated, and tho' he fled with the Remainder, as far as *Monmouthshire* in *Wales*, yet some way or other he

was there detected, committed first Prisoner to the County Goal, and then sent up to *London*, where in a few Days after his Arrival he was tried and convicted. Never poor Wretch suffer'd deeper Affliction than he did, in the Reflection of his Follies, for giving up all hopes of Life, he spent the whole Interval of Time between Sentence and Execution, in grieving for the Sorrows he had brought upon himself, and the Stain his ignominious Death would leave upon his Family. His Companion in the mean time, was fled far enough out of the Reach of Justice, so that *Cartwright* had nothing to expect but Death, to which he patiently submitted ; acknowledging upon all Occasions the Justice of that Sentence which had befallen him, and wishing that his Death might be sufficient to warn other young Men in such Circumstances, as his once were, from falling into Faults of that kind, which had brought him to ruin and shame ; yet tho' he laid aside all Desires relating to worldly Things, he yet expressed a little Peevishness from the Neglect shewn towards him by his Friends in the Country ; who tho' they knew well enough of his Misfortunes ; yet they absolutely declined doing any thing for him, from a Notion perhaps that it might reflect upon themselves. *Cartwright* above
all

all things manifested a due Sense of the Ingratitude he had been guilty of, towards so good a Master, as the Gentleman whom he robbed had been to him; he therefore pray'd for his Prosperity, even with his last Breath, and declared he died without Malice or ill Will against any Person whatsoever. At the Place of Execution he attended very devoutly to the Prayers; but did not say any thing to the People, more than to begg them to take Warning by him, after the Rope was fix'd about his Neck; he was executed at Tyburn on Monday the 21st of September 1726, being then about Twenty-three Years of Age; a remarkable Instance how far Youth, even of the best Principle is liable to be corrupted, if they are not carefully watched over, and may justify those Restraints which Parents and Masters, from a just Apprehension of things put upon their Children or Servants.





*The LIFE of FRANCES alias MARY
BLACKET, an Highway-Woman.*



NOTHING deserves Observation more than the Resolution, or rather Obstinacy, with which some Criminals deny the Facts they have committed, tho' ever so evidently proved against them. There are two Evils which follow from a hasty Judgment formed from this Consideration, the first is, that People either instigated through Malice, or rashly and by Mistake swear against innocent Persons, from a Presumption that no-body would be so wicked as to die with a Lie in their Mouths. The other Fault consists in imagining the *Prosecutor's* never in the Wrong, but believing that Covetousness or Revenge can never bring People up to such a Pitch, as to take away the Life of another to gain Money, or to glut their Passions. Our Experience convinces us, that either of these Notions taken generally is wrong in it self, and that as many have died in the Profession of Falshoods,
so

so some have suffered tho' Innocent of the Crime for which they died. The true Use therefore of this Reflection, is, that where Life is concerned, too much Care cannot be taken to sift the Truth, since Appearances often deceives us, and Circumstances are sometimes strong where the Evidence, if the whole Affair were known, would be but weak.

MARY BLACKET, which was the real Name of this unfortunate Woman, was the Daughter of very mean Parents, who yet were so careful of her Education, that they brought her up to read and write tolerably well, and to do every Thing which could be expected from a *Household-Servant*, which was the best Station they ever expected she should arrive at. When she grew big enough to go out, they procured for her a Service, in which, as well as in several others, while a single Woman, she lived with very good Reputation. After this she married a *Sailor*, and for all her Neighbours knew, lived by hard working while he was abroad, when on a sudden she was taken up and committed to *Newgate*, for assaulting *William Whittle* on the Highway, and taking from him a *Watch*, value 4 *l.* and 6 *d.* in Money, on the 6th of *August* 1726. When *Sessions* came on, the Prosecutor appeared and swore

the Fact positively upon her, whereupon the Jury found her guilty, tho' she at the Bar declared with Abundance of Affeверations, that she never was guilty of any Thing of that Sort in her Life, and insisted on it, that the Man was mistaken in her Face. While under Sentence of Death, she behaved herself with great Devotion, and seem'd to express no Concern at leaving the World, excepting only her Apprehensions that her Child would neither be taken care of, nor educated so well after her Decease, at the Charge of the *Parish*, as hitherto it had been; yet with Respect to the Crime for which she was to die, she still continued to profess her Innocency thereof, averring that she had never been concerned in injuring any Body by Theft, and charging the Oath of the Prosecuting wholly upon his Mistake, and not upon any wilful Design to do her Prejudice. She as well at *Chappel*, as in the Place of her Confinement declared, she absolutely forgave him who had brought her to that ignominious End, as freely as she hoped Forgiveness from her *Creator*; and with these Professions she left the World at *Tyburn*, on the same Day with the before mentioned Malefactor, being then about 34 Years of Age, persisting even at the Place of *Execution* in the Denial of the Fact.

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The *LIFE* of JANE HOLMES *alias*
BARRET, *alias* FRAZER, a *Shop-*
lifter.



IN the Summer of the Year 1726, *Shop-lifting* became so common a Practice, and so detrimental to the *Shop-keepers*, that they made an Application to the Government for Assistance in apprehending the Offenders, and in order thereto, the Offer of a Reward and a Pardon for any who would discover their Associates in such Practices: It was not long before by their Vigilance and Warmth in carrying on the Prosecution, they seized and committed several of the most notorious *Shop-lifters* about Town, and at the next several other ensuing *Sessions* convicted Six or Seven of them, which seems to have pretty well broke the Neck of this Branch of Thieving ever since. This Malefactor of whom we are now speaking, pretended to have been the Daughter of a Gentleman of some Rank in a *Northern County*. Certain it is, that the

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Woman

Woman had had a tolerable Education; and neither in her Person, nor in her Behaviour, betrayed any Thing of a vulgar Birth. Yet those whom she called her nearest Relations, absolutely disowned her on her Application to them, and would not be prevailed on to take any Steps whatsoever in order to procure her a Reprieve.

Between fifteen and sixteen Years old, she came up to *London* to her *Aunt*, much as she pretended, against the Will of her Relations. At that Time she was not ugly, and therefore a young Fellow in the Neighbourhood began to be very assiduous in his Courtship to her, hoping also that the Persons she talked of, as her Father and Brothers in the Country, would give him a Sum of Money to set up his Trade. Miss *Jenny* was a forward Lass, and the Fellow being a spruce young *Spark*, soon prevailed over her Affections, and they were accordingly privately married, tho' it proved not much to her Advantage. For her Husband finding no Money come, began to use her indifferently, upon which she fell into that Sort of Business, which goes under the Name of a *Holland's Trader*, and gives the best Opportunities of vending Goods that are ill come by, at a tolerable Price, and with little Danger. Whether in the Life-time of
this

this Husband or afterwards, I cannot say, but she fell into the Acquaintance of the famous *Jonathan Wild*, and possibly received some of his Instructions in managing her Affairs in the Disposal of stolen Goods; but as *Jonathan's* Friendships were mostly fatal, so in about a Year's Time afterwards she was apprehended upon that Score, and shortly after tried and convicted, and thereupon ordered for Transportation; she continued abroad for two Years or somewhat more; and then under Pretence of Love to her Children ventur'd over to *England* again, where it was not long before she got acquainted with her old Crew, who, if they were to be believed upon their Oaths, were even inferior to her in the Art and Mystery of *Shop-lifting*; however it were, whether by selling stolen Goods, or by stealing them, certain it is that she ran into so much Money, that an *Irish Sharper* thought fit about *Christmas* before her Death, to marry her; in order to possess himself of her Effects, which without Ceremony he did upon her being last apprehended, disposing of every Thing she had, and taking away particularly a large Purse of old Gold, which by her Industry she had collected against a *Rainy Day*. The Woman who became an Evidence against her, swore so positively on the

the several Indictments, and what she said was corroborated with so many Circumstances, that the Jury found her guilty on the four following Indictments, viz. For privately stealing 20 Yards of *Straw-Ground brocaded Silk*, Value 10 l. the Goods of *John Moon* and *Richard Stone*, on the first of *June* 1726. 2. Of privately stealing in the Shop of *Mr. Matthew Herbert* 40 Yards of *Pink-coloured Mantua Silk*, Value 10 l. on the first of *May* in the same Year. 3. Of privately stealing in Company with *Mary Robinson*, a *Silver Cup* of the Value of 5 l. the Goods of *Elizabeth Dobbinson*, on the 7th of *January*. 4. Of privately stealing in the Company of *Mary Robinson* aforesaid, 80 Yards of *Cherry-coloured Mantua Silk*, Value 5 l. the Goods of *Joseph Bourn* and *Mary Harper*, on the 24th of *December*.

Notwithstanding the Clearness of the Evidence given against her, yet while under Sentence of Death, she absolutely denied, not only the several Facts of which she was convicted, but of her having been ever guilty of any Theft during her whole Life; yet she confessed her Acquaintance with *Jonathan Wild*, nay, and went so far as to own her having bought stolen Goods, and disposed of them, by which she had got great Sums of Money. She was exceedingly uneasy

easy at the Thoughts of dying, and left no Method untried to have procured a Reprieve, venting herself in most opprobrious Terms against some whom she would have put upon procuring it for her, by pretending to be their near Relation, tho' the People knew very well, that she had nothing to do with them or their Family; and she herself had been reproved by the *Ministers* who assisted the *Condemned Persons* for making such Pretensions, yet she still persisted therein, and on the *Ordinary* of *Newgate's* acquainting her, that the Gentleman she called her *Father*, died the Week before suddenly, she fell into a great Agony of crying, and as soon as she came a little to herself, reproached, tho' in very modest Terms, the unnatural Conduct of those she still averr'd to be so nearly related to her. Nothing could be more fond than she was of her Children, who were brought to *Newgate* to see her, and over whom she wept bitterly, and expressed great Concern at her not having saved wherewith to support them in their tender Years. At last when she lost all Hopes of Life, instead of growing calmer, and better reconciled to Death, as is frequent enough with Persons in that sad Condition; on the contrary, she became more impatient than ever, flew out into excessive Passions, and

and behaved herself with such Vehemency and Flights of Railing, that she did not a little disturb those who lay under Sentence in the same Place with her. For this she was reprimanded by the *Keepers*, and exhorted to alter her Behaviour by the *Minister* of the Place, which had at last so good an Effect upon her, that she became more quiet for the two or three last Days of her Life, in which she professed herself exceedingly grieved for the many Offences of her mispent Life; declaring she heartily forgave the Woman who was an Evidence against her, and who she believed was much wickedder than herself, because as this Criminal pretended, she had varied not a little from the Truth. At the Place of *Execution* she was more composed than could have been expected, and with many Prayers that her Life might prove a Warning to others; she yielded up her last Breath at *Tyburn* on the same Day with the before mentioned Malefactors, being then about 34 Years of Age.





The LIFE of KATHERINE FITZ-PATRICK, alias GREEN, alias BOSWELL, a notorious Shoplift.

AFTER once the *Mercers* had got *Burton*, who was the Evidence into their Hands, she quickly detected Numbers of her Confederates, several of whom were apprehended, and chiefly on her Evidence convicted. Amongst the rest was this *Katherine Fitz-patrick*, who was born in *Lincolnshire*, of Parents far from being in low Circumstances, and who were careful in bestowing on her a very tolerable Education. In the Country she discovered a little too much Forwardness, and though *London* was a very improper Place to hope for her Amendment in, yet hither her Friends sent her, where she quickly fell into such Company as deprived her of all Sentiments, either of Virtue or Honesty. What Practices she might pursue before she fell into *Shop-lifting*, I have not been able to learn, and will not therefore impose upon my Readers, at the Expence of a poor Creature, who
is

is so long ago gone to answer for her Offences, which, as they were doubtless many of themselves, so they shall never be encreas'd by me.

BEING a Woman of a tolerable Person, notwithstanding her not having the best of Characters, she got a Man in the Mind to marry her, to whom she made an indifferent good Wife ; and tho' he was not altogether clear from knowing of her being concerned with *Shop-lifters*, yet he was so far from giving her the least Encouragement therein, that they were on the contrary continually quarrelling upon this Subject ; and whenever from any Circumstances he guess'd she had been a *Thieving*, he beat her severely ; yet all this was to no Purpose, she still continued to tread in the old Path, and associated herself with a large Number of Women, who were at this Time busy in stealing *Silks* privately out of the Shops, either in the Absence of the *Master*, or under the Pretence of seeing others. It is observable not only of *Katherine Fitz-patrick*, of whom we are now speaking, but also of all the Persons who died for this Offence, that they were extremely shy of making particular Confessions, though ready enough to confess in general, that they had been grievous Sinners, and that the Punishment they were to undergo,

dergo, was very just from the Hand of God. *Fitz-patrick*, as well as the former Criminal *Holmes*, charged *Burton* the Evidence with Disingenuity in what she delivered on her Oath against them, and yet *Fitz-patrick* could not absolutely deny her having been guilty of a Multitude of Offences as to *Shop-lifting*, so that it is highly probable, if the Evidence erred a little in immaterial Circumstances, yet in the main she swore Truth.

The particular Facts on which *Fitz-patrick* was convicted, were stealing privately 19 Yards of *Green Damask*, valued at 9 l. the Goods of *Joseph Giffard* and *John Ravenal*, on *July* the 29th 1724. 2. Taking 10 Yards of *Green Satin* out of the Shop of *John Moon* and *Richard Stone*, Value 3 l. on the 10th of *February* 1724-5. 3. Privately stealing in Company with another Person, 50 Yards of *Green Mantua*, Value 10 l. the Goods of *John Autt*, *May* the 5th 1725. 4. For privately stealing 63 Yards of *Modena* and *Pink Italian Mantua*, the Goods of *Josbua Fairy*, *February* 24. 1724-5. These Dates were all of them somewhat more than a Twelvemonth before the Time of her Apprehension; and she insisted on it, that she had left off committing any such Thing for a considerable Space, which made the Evidence envy her, and so brought on the

the Prosecution. As she was a Woman of good natural Parts, and had not utterly lost that Education which had been bestowed upon her, she was not near so much confused at the Apprehensions of Death, as People in her Circumstances usually are; she said, she was glad she had made some Reformation in her Life, before this great Evil came upon her, because she hoped her Repentance was the more sincere, as it had not proceeded from force; yet she was very desirous of Life when first condemned; and as well as Mrs. *Holmes* pleaded her Belly, in hopes her Pregnancy might have prevented her Execution. But a Jury of *Matrons* found neither of them to be with quick Child; yet both to the Time of their Death averred they were so, and seemed exceedingly uneasy, that their Children should die violent Deaths within them.

WHEN the time of her Execution drew very near, she called her Thoughts totally off from worldly Affairs, and seemed to apply herself to the great Business which lay before her, with an Earnestness and Assiduity seldom to be seen in such People; the Assistances she had from her Friends abroad were not large, but she contented herself with a very spare Diet, being unwilling that any thing should call her off from Penitence and

and religious Duties; she seemed to have entirely weaned her Affections from the Desire of Life, and never shewed any extraordinary Emotions; but on the Visit of her youngest Child in the Nurse's Arms, at the first Sight of which, she fell into strong *Convulsion Fits*; from which she was not brought to herself without great Difficulty. She sometimes expressed a little Uneasiness at the Misfortunes which had befallen her, after she had left off that Way of Living; but upon her being spoke to by several Reverend Persons, who explained and vindicated the Wisdom and Justice of *Providence*; she acquiesced under its Decrees, and without murmuring submitted to her Fate. A little before she died, she with the rest of the *Shop-Lifters* were ask'd some Questions concerning one Mrs. *Susanna Barker*, who was suspected of having been in some Degree concerned with her; Mrs. *Fitz-Patrick* and Mrs. *Holmes* each of them declared, that they knew nothing Evil concerning her; Mrs. *Fitz-Patrick* did indeed say, that she had some little Acquaintance with the Woman, and knew that she got her Living by selling Coffee, Tea, and some other little things, yet never was concerned in any ill Practices in Relation to them, or any Body else she knew of. After having done this publick Justice,

Justice, she with great Meekness yeilded up her Breath at Tyburn, the 6th of September, 1726, being then about Thirty-eight Years of Age.



The LIFE of MARY ROBINSON, a Shop-Lifter.



HE Indiscretions of Youth are always pitied, and often excused, even by those who suffer mostly by them; but when Persons grown up to Years of Discretion, continue to pursue with Eagerness the most flagitious Courses, and grow in Wickedness, as they grow in Age; Pity naturally forsakes us, and they appear in so execrable a Light, that instead of having Compassion for their Misfortunes we congratulate our Country, as being rid of such Monsters, whom nothing could tame, nor the Approach even of Death in a natural Way, hinder them from anticipating it, by drawing on a violent One through their Crimes. I am drawn to this Observation from the Fate of the miserable Woman of whom

whom we are now speaking. What her Parents were, or what her Education is impossible to say, since she was shy of relating them herself, and being Seventy Years old at the Time of her Execution; there was no-body then living who could give an Account about her; she was indicted for stealing a Silver-Cup in Company with *Jane Holmes*, and also privately stealing Eighty Yards of Cherry colour'd Mantua Silk, value five Pound, in Company with the afore-said *Jane Holmes*, the Property of *Joseph Brown* and *Mary Harper*, on the 24th of December, on which Facts she was convicted as the Rest were, on the Evidence of *Burton*; whom as is usual in such Cases, they represented as a Woman worse than themselves, and who had drawn many of them in the Commission of which, she now deposed against them. As to this old Woman *Mary Robinson*, she said, ' she had been a Widow Fourteen Years, and had both Children and Grand-Children living at the Time of her Execution; she said, she had worked as hard for her living as any Woman in *London*; ' yet when pressed thereupon to speak the Truth, and not wrong her Conscience in her last Moments, she did then declare she had been guilty of Thievish Tricks; but persisted in it, that the Evidence

vidence *Burton* had not been exactly right, in what she had sworn against her. It was a melancholy thing to see a Woman of her Years, and who really wanted not Capacity brought into those lamentable Circumstances, and going to a violent and ignominious Death, when at a Time when she could not expect it, would be any long Term before she submitted to a natural One.

POSSIBLY my Readers may wonder, how such large Quantities of Silk were conveyed away ; I thought therefore proper to inform them, that Evidence *Burton* said, they had a Contrivance under their Petticoats, not unlike two large Hooks, upon which they laid a whole Roll of Silk, and so conveyed it away at once, while one of the Confederates amused the People of the Shop in some manner or other, untill they were got out of reach, and by this means they had for many Years together carried on their Trade with great Success, and as much Safety, untill the Losses of the Tradesmen ran so high, as to induce them to take the Method beforementioned ; which quickly produced a Discovery, not only of the Persons of the Offenders, but of the Places also where they had deposited the Goods, by which means a good Part of them were recovered ; and those who had so long lived by this infamous

mous Practices were either detected or destroyed ; so that *Shop-lifting* has been thereby kept under ever since, or at least the Offenders have not ventured in so large a Way as before. But to return to the Criminal of whom we are to treat, she said, she was not afraid of Death at all, tho' she confessed herself troubled as to the Manner in which she was to die, and reflected severely upon *Burton*, who had given Evidence against her : By degrees she grew calmer, and on the Day of her Execution appeared more compos'd and chearful, than she had done during all her Troubles ; she suffered at the same time with the Malefactors before-mentioned, and in her Years looked as if she had been the Mother of those with whom she died.





*The LIFE of JANE MARTIN, alias
LLOYD, a Cheat and a Thief, &c.*

THIS Woman was the Daughter of Parents in very good Reputation, about an hundred Miles off in the Country; while they liv'd they took care to breed her to understand every thing as became a young Gentlewoman of a small Fortune, and she in her younger Years was tractable enough; but her Parents dying while *Jane* was but a Girl, she came into the Hands of Guardians, who were not altogether so careful as they ought. Before she was of Age, she married a young Gentleman, who had a pretty little Fortune, which he and she quickly confounded; insomuch, that he became a Prisoner in the *King's-Bench* for Debt; being thus destitute, and in very great Want of Money, she set her Wits to work, to consider Ways and Means of cheating People for her Support, in which she became as dexterous as any whoever followed that infamous Trade.

Yet

Yet her Husband, as she herself own'd, was a Man of strict Honour, and so much offended at these Villanies, that he used her with great Severity thereupon; but that had no Effect, for she still continued the old Trade, putting on the *Saint* 'till People trusted her, and pulling off the Mask as soon as she found there was no more to be got by keeping it on.

AMONGST the rest of her Adventures in this Way, she once took it in her Head, that it possible for her to set up a great Shop entirely upon Credit, for except some good Cloaths, she had nothing else to go to Market with; accordingly she first took a Shop, not far from *Somerset-house*, and having caused some Bales of Brickbats to be made up, sent them thither in a Cart with one of her Confederates, which were safely deposited in that which was to pass for the Ware-house; a *Carpenter* was sent for, who was employed in making Shelves, Drawers, and other Utensils, for a *Haberdaşher's* Shop; then going to the Wholesale People in that Way, she found means to draw them in, to six or seven hundred Pounds worth of Goods to the House which she had taken; all of which the *Saturday* Night following, she caused to be carried over into the *Mint*, a Practice very common while the infamous

Shelterers there preserve their pretended Privileges. Mrs. *Martin* having got some Acquaintance in a tolerable Family, and having a very fair Tongue, she quickly wheedled them into a Belief of her being able to do great Matters; for that by her Interest with some Person of Distinction, whose Name she made use of on this Occasion, and thereby got several Presents and small Sums of Money, and if she herself were to be believed, among the rest a Silver-Cup; whether her failing in her Promises really provoked the People to swearing a *Theft* upon her, or whether which is more probable, she took an Opportunity of conveying it privately away, certain it is that for this she was Prosecuted, and the Fact appearing clear enough to the Jury, was thereupon convicted and ordered for Transportation; this afflicted her at least as much as if she had been condemned to instant Death; and therefore applied herself continually to thinking which way it might be eluded, and she escape; soon after her going abroad, she effected what she so earnestly desired, and unhappily for her returned again into *England*.

THE numerous Frauds she had committed, had so exasperated many People against her, who as soon as it was rumour'd that she was

was come back again, never left searching for her, untill they found her out, and got her committed to *Newgate*, and on the Record of her Conviction being produced the next Sessions, and the Prosecutor swearing positively that she was the same Person; the Jury after a short Consultation brought her in Guilty, and she received Sentence of Death; from which, as she had no Friends she could not hope to escape. When she found Death was inevitable, she fell into excessive Agonies, and well nigh into despair; the Reflection on the many People she had injured, gave her so great Grief and anxiety of Mind, that she could scarce be persuaded to get down a sufficient Quantity of Food to preserve her Life 'till the time of her Execution. But the *Minister* at *Newgate* having demonstrated to her, the Wickedness and Folly of such a Course, she by degrees came to have a better Sense of things; her Mind grew calmer, and tho' her Repentance accompanied with Sighs and Tears; yet she did not burst out into those lamentable Out-cries, by which she before disturbed both herself, and those poor Creatures who were under Sentence with her. In this Disposition of Mind she continued until the Day of her Death, which was on the 12th of *September*, 1726, between Twenty

seven and eight Years of Age, in the Company of the before mentioned Malefactors, *Cartwright, Blackett, Holmes, Fitz-patrick, Robinson, and William Allison*, a poor Country Lad of about Twenty five, apparently of an easy gentle Temper, and had been induced into the Fact, partly through *Covetousness*, and partly thro' *Want*.



The LIFE of TIMOTHY BENSON,
an Highwayman.



AMONGST the Number of those unfortunate Persons, whose Memory we have preserved to the World, in order that their Punishments may become lasting Warnings unto all who are in any Danger of following their Footsteps. None is more capable of affording useful Reflections, than the Incidents that are to be found in the Life of this *Robber*, are likely to create; he was the Son of a *Serjeant's* Wife in the Regiment of the Earl of *Darby*; but who his Father was, it would be hard to say. His Mother having had a long Intrigue with one Captain *Benson*, and the *Serjeant* dying soon
after

after this Child was born, she thought fit to give him the Captain's Name, declaring publicly enough, that if it was in her Power to distinguish, the Captain must be his Father : Certain it is, that the Woman acted cunningly at least ; for *Benson* who had never had a Child, was so much pleased with the Boys Ingenuity, that he sent him to a *Grammar-School* in *Yorkshire*, where he caused him to be educated as well as if he had been his *legitimate Son*. Nothing could be more dutiful than *Tim.* was while a Child. The Captain was continually vexed with long Letters from the Gentlewoman where he was boarded, of *Masters* fine Person, great Parts and wonderful Improvements ; which *Benson* being a Man of Sense, took to be such gross Flattery, that he came down to *Bellerby* the Village where the Child was, on Purpose to take it away ; but Mr. *Tim.* upon his Arrival, appeared such a Prodigy both in Beauty and Understanding, that the old Gentleman was perfectly ravished with him, and whatever he might believe before, *Vanity* now engaged him to think the Youth his Son ; for which Reason he doubled his Care in providing for him, and when he had made a sufficient Progress at the *Grammar-School*, he caus'd him to be sent over to *Leyden*, an University of which he had a great Opinion ;

Timothy

Timothy lost not any of his Reputation by this Change of Climate, but returned in three Years Time from *Holland*, as accomplished a young Fellow as had been bred there for a long Time; he had but just made his Compliments to his supposed Father, and received *Thirty Guineas* from him as a Welcome to *England*, before the old Gentleman fell ill of a *Pleurisy*, which in four Days Time deprived him of his Life; and as he had no *Will*, his Estate of 300 *l.* a Year, and about 700 *l.* in Money, which he had lent out on Securities, descended to his Sister's Son, as errant a Booby as ever breathed, and deprived *Tim.* both of his present Subsistance, and future Hopes.

IN this distressed Condition, he took Lodgings in a little Court at the farther End of *Westminster*; he had a great Number of good Cloaths, and as he then addicted himself to nothing so much as Reading, he lived so frugally as to make a very tolerable Appearance, and to pay every Body justly for about half a Year, which so well established his Credit in the Neighbourhood, that he was invited to the Houses of the best *Families* thereabouts, and might undoubtedly, if he had had his Wits about him, have married some young Gentlewoman thereabouts of tolerable Fortune; but he happen-

happening to lodge over against a great *Mantua Makers*, took Notice of a young Girl who was her Apprentice, and happened to be a *Chandler's* Daughter at *Hammer-smith*. The Wench, whose Name was *Jenny*, was really handsome and agreeable, but as Things were circumstanced with him, nothing could be more ridiculous than that Passion which he suffered himself to entertain for her. 'Tis very probable, that he might have had some transient Amours before this, but *Jenny* was certainly Mistress to whom he made his first Addresses, and the real Passion of his Heart. The Girl was quickly tempted by the Person and Appearance of her Lover, and without enquiring too narrowly into his Circumstances, would certainly have yielded to his Passion, if Marriage had been the Thing at which he aimed, but he was an Obstacle hard to be got over; *Tim.* looked upon himself to be irretrievably undone, from the Hour he entred into that State. At last he conquered that Virtue which his Mistress had hitherto preserved, and after they had fooled away a Month or two together, at the Expence of all he had, *Tim.* found himself at last obliged to confess the Truth of his Circumstances, and by that Confession brought a Flood of Grief upon his *Fair One*, who had hither-

hitherto been unaccustomed to Misfortunes; when they first came together, it was agreed between them to quit that Part of the Town where they were both known, and they afterwards lodged in a very pretty little House on the Edge of *Red Lyon Fields*. On the Morning *Tim.* made this Discovery, his *Cash* was reduced to a single *Crown*; 'tis true, he had Abundance of Things of Value, but when once they began to go, he was conscious to himself that Starving would quickly be their Lot, and what added more to his Misfortune was, that his *Mistress*, amidst all her Sighs and Afflictions, declared she would rather continue with him, than go home to her Relations, tho' from the Indulgence of a Mother she did not doubt meeting with a good Receptance. However they came to this Resolution, that *Jenny* should go and raise *Five Guineas* upon a *Diamond Ring* of his; and while she was gone on this Errand, poor *Benson* sat leaning with his Head upon his Arm in a Window that looked towards the *Fields*; casting up his Eyes by Chance, he saw a Gentleman walking up and down, as if for his Diversion, whereupon a Thought immediately struck him, that it would be an easy Matter to rob him, and by his Appearance it was not unlikely but that he
might

might prove a good Prize. Without Reflecting, he resolved upon the Thing, and putting on an old *Great Coat* which he had in his *Closet* over his *Night Gown*, and with a *Case of Pistols* in his Breast, he slipped out at the *Garden Gate* without being perceived, and was up with him in an Instant, when taking the Button of his Hat in his Teeth, he mumbled out, *Deliver or you're a dead Man*. The Gentleman in great Confusion gave him a *Green Purse* of Gold, and was going to pull his *Ring* off from his Finger, and his *Watch* out of his Pocket. *Tim.* stopped him, and said he had enough, only commanded him to turn his Back towards him, and not to alter his Position for 15 *Minutes* by his own Watch, which the Gentleman religiously observed, and *Tim.* made all the Haste he could through the *Garden* into his own Chamber; where having hid the Cloak at the Back of the Bed, he began to examin the Value of the Plunder, and found that the Purse contained *Seventy Guineas* and two *Diamond Rings*, one a single Stone, and a very fine one, the other consisting of Seven, but small and of no great Value. These he went down and buried in the Garden; having first burnt the Purse in the Fire. The Hurry of the Fact being over, he sat down once again in his own Room, and

and had Leisure to reflect a little on what he had done, which threw him into such an Agony, that he was scarce able to sit upon the Chair. Shame at the Villainy he had committed, the Fear of being apprehended, and the Apprehensions of *Tyburn*, gave so many Wounds to his Imagination, that he thought his former Uneasiness a State of Quiet to the Pangs which he now felt, which were much more bitter, as well as of a very different Nature from any Thing he had known before.

IN the midst of these Terrors, he heard the Voices of a great Deal of Company in his *Landlady's Parlour*. The Hopes of being a little easy where he had not so much Opportunity of affrighting himself with his own Thoughts, occasioned his going down Stairs, and without well knowing what he did, knocked at the *Parlour Door*, which when opened, the first Thing which struck his Eye, was the Gentleman whom he had robbed, drinking a Glass of Water. This gave him such a Shock, that he had much ado to collect Spirits enough to tell the Gentlewoman of the House, he perceived she had Company, and therefore would not intrude; but she laying her Hand upon his Arm, said, pray Mr. *Benson* walk in, here's Nobody but a Gentleman who has had the
Misfortune

Misfortune to be robbed in the *Field*, the Fright of which has put him into such a Disorder, that he desired to step in here that he might have Leisure to come a little to himself. *Tim.* saw it was impossible for him to retreat, and so putting on the best Face he was able, he came in and sat down. His *Landlady* began then to enquire the Circumstances of the *Robbery*. Why, Madam, replied he, I was walking there, as I generally do of a fine Afternoon, in order to get a little fresh Air ; when a Man came up all of a sudden to me, close muffled up in a *Green* or *Blue Great Coat*, in Truth I cannot say which, he clapped a *Pistol* to my Breast, and I gave him my *Purse*, and my *Neice's* two *Rings*, one of which cost me *Fourscore Guineas*, but three Weeks ago, and as I was afraid he would murder me, I was going to give him this off my Finger, and my *Watch* out of my Pocket ; but that the Fellow said he had enough ; and his leaving these, surprized me almost as much as taking the rest ; but what Sort of a Man was he, said she, why I think he was about that Gentleman's Height, added he, but I am so short sighted, that I question whether I should have known his Face, had it not been covered with his Hat ; besides I am so much taken with the Rogues Generosity, that

that I would not prosecute him if I had him in the Room. This set *Tim's* Heart so much at Rest, that he began to come to himself a little; and asked the strange Gentleman if he would not be so good as to drink a Glass of Wine. A Bottle was sent for, and during the Time they were drinking it, *Fenny* came in, and it being quite dark before they had finish'd it, a Coach was called, and Mr. *Benson* offered to see the Gentleman home, in order to which he was going up Stairs to put on his Cloaths; but this the Stranger would not permit, begging him to go as he was, upon which *Fenny* said, then, my Dear, I'll fetch your Great Coat; that he had much ado to desire the Gentleman to walk to the Coach, and he'd go as he was, which he did accordingly, and after drinking a Glass of Citron Water with the Lady whose Rings he had stolen, he came home again as fast as the Coach could carry him; *Fenny* was very melancholly at his Return, and giving him Three Guineas, told him it was all the Pawnbroker would lend, and she had much ado to get that, as she was not known. *Tim.* bid her be of good Chear, and said he hoped Things would mend, and so they went to Bed. Two or three Days after, he took an Opportunity of going out pretty early, and
return-

returning about Dinner time, told her with much seeming Joy, that he had met with a Gentleman whom he had been acquainted with at *Leyden*, and who hearing of his Father's Death, had begg'd him to accept of *Twenty Guineas*, as a Mark to his *Esteem*. Jenny was in Raptures at their good Fortune, and went that Afternoon and fetch'd the Ring home, returning, poor Creature, with as much Satisfaction as if she had received ever so much Money; for the hopes of living quietly with the Man she loved a Month or two, dispelled all the Apprehensions of Poverty, which she was before under.

TIM. considering that this Supply would not last always, resolving with himself never to run such a Hazard again; he began to beat his Brains about the best Method to be taken of getting Money in an honest way. As he had been bred to no *Profession*, notwithstanding the excellent Education he had had; never was Man more at his Wits end. After a Thousand several Schemes had offered themselves to his Mind, and were rejected; it came at last into his Head, that as he was tolerably vers'd in *Physick*, it might not be impossible for him to get his Bread by that; but then how to get into *Practice*, there was the Difficulty. A little Recollection

tion helped him here ; he had seen a *Quack Doctor* exhibite his *Medicines* with a *Panegyrick* on their good *Qualities* on a *Stage*, in his *Journey* to *London*, he resolved, as scandalous as the *Profession* was, to venture upon it, rather than run the *Risque* he had done before. This *Scheme* doubtless cost him some *Trouble* before he brought it to bear, so as to give him any *Hopes* of his putting it in *Execution* ; but having at last settled it as well as he could, he determined with himself to go down into some distant *County* and undertake it ; in order to have his *Thoughts* at greater *Liberty* to resolve about it, he took a *Walk* into the *Fields* ; and being very dry after his *Preambulation*, he stepped into a little *Alcove*, and called for a *Mug* of *Drink*, while he sat there he heard two *Men* discoursing upon the vast *Sums* of *Money* that was got by one *Smith*, a *Practitioner* in the very *Art* which he was going to set up, and he found by them that the chief *Scene* of *Smith's* *Adventures* had lain in *Lincolnshire*, and thereabouts ; so without more ado, as all *Places* were alike to him, he settled his *Intentions* to go down to the same *Place*, where he understood by the *Man* that this *Quondam Doctor* had done some great *Cures*, and got a tolerable *Reputation*. When he came home, he could not avoid appearing
very

very thoughtful, and *Jenny* fearful of some new Disaster, would not let him rest till he had acquainted her fully with his Design; which he would not consent to do, till she promised to comply with a Proposal he was to make her, after he had revealed the Secret she was so desirous to know. When he had told her his Project, she next demanded what the Condition was to which she had bound herself to yield. *Benson* replied, it was to remain at some Place Thirty or Forty Miles distant from where he intended to go, that she might not be expos'd to any Inconveniencies from that unhappy Figure he saw himself obliged to make. It was with great Reluctance that she ratified the Consent she had given; but at length after much Persuasion, she again acknowledged he was in the Right, and promis'd to do as he would have her. Things being thus adjusted, nothing remained for him to do but to get ready for his Journey, and that his Mate might be the less timorous of the Event, he told her he had procured another Supply of *Twenty five Guineas*.

His *Cloak-bag* was soon stored with such Medicines as he thought proper, and having pack'd up a few practical Books he thought he might have Occasion for, he took a Place for himself and *Jenny*, who passed for his
Wife,

Wife, in the Stage Coach for *Huntingdon* ; at a Village near which, paying the People for a Month's Board, he left his Consort ; and having hired Horses to *Boston*, he took a young Fellow from *Huntingdon* with him thither. As *Benson* had a very smooth Tongue, so he set off the wonderful Properties of his Drugs in so artful a Manner, that, in the Space of a Fortnight he had cleared 10 *l.* besides his Expences. As he had left *Jenny* Five Guineas in her Pocket, he wrote to her to pay the People another Month's Board, and assured her that he would return within that Space ; having accordingly visited *Sletford*, and some other great Towns thereabouts, he in seven Weeks time set out for his Return into *Huntingdonshire* with Fifty Guineas, all clear Gains in his Pocket. This good Luck encouraged him to run through the greatest Part of the *North of England* in the same Manner, and within the Compass of three Years, he cleared upwards of 500 *l.* at the Time of his making which Calculation, he was set down at *Bristol*, in order to exercise his Talent in that great City ; but an unexpected Accident broke all his Measures. Just as his Stage was set up, and he mounted, and opening his Harrangue which was now become familiar to him, when a *Constable* stepped up upon the Stage, and told

told him, that a Gentleman had sworn a *Robbery* directly upon him, and he must go immediately before the *Mayor*. This put him into a lamentable Confusion; he knew himself innocent, but the Character of a *Mountebank* was sufficient to make the Thing believed at first, and therefore he could not be blamed for his Apprehensions, especially considering he took it as a just Return for that *Robbery* which he had committed in *Town*, and for which he made no Satisfaction when it was so fully in his Power.

Upon his and his Prosecutor's appearing before the *Mayor*, and swearing flatly to his Face, and to his robbing him of *Seven Guineas*, a *Silver Watch*, and a *Snuff-Box*, *Tim.* had his *Mittimus* made for *Newgate*, but upon his desiring the *Mayor* that his Effects might be search'd, but not plundered, he had Leave given him to return with the Officer and see them looked over at the *Inn*. As many of them were valuable of themselves, as the *Drugs* were of the best Sorts, and as he had several Letters from Persons of good Character, in the several Counties through which he had passed, and *Bank Notes* and *Bills* to the Value of 400 *l.* they thought fit to report all this to the *Mayor*, before they did any Thing. The *Mayor* thereupon resolved to act very cautiously, and

and having first look'd over every Thing himself, he then ordered the Effects to be delivered up to Mr. *Benson* himself, who, however was obliged to undergo a Confinement of eight Weeks, till the Assizes, at which the Prosecutor not appearing, and Mr. *Benson*, by the Permission of the Court, examining two Gentlemen of undoubted Credit, who proved his being at the Time when the Robbery was sworn in another Place, he was acquitted, and a Copy of his Indictment ordered him. It seems a Person under Condemnation at *Hertford* acknowledged the Fact for which *Tim.* had been committed, and produced both the *Snuff-Box* and *Watch*, which tho' the Gentleman who lost them got again, yet it proved an Affair of very ill Consequence to him; for he was obliged to give *Benson* One Hundred Guineas to obtain a general Release, and *Tim.* fearing the Noise of the Thing had undone his Reputation, resolved to go over to *America* and settle there.

A Gentleman at *Bristol* who traded largely to the Plantations, offered him his Assistance in the Affair, and Matters being quickly adjusted between them, *Tim.* to show himself grateful, and a Man of Honour, was married privately to *Jenny*, who he resolved should be the Companion of his Future Fortunes,

tunes, as she had hitherto been the constant Solace of all his Sorrows ; but before they set out, he thought it proper to make a Journey to *London*, as well to provide some necessary Articles in the Profession he intended to follow, as to make an End of a little Affair, which we have before related, and which lay very hard upon his Conscience. To Town then came *Fenny* and he, and took a Lodging near *Tower-Street*, where in about a Forenight's Time Mr. *Benson* had put every Thing in order for his Voyage. The Day before he set out on his Return for *Bristol*, he wrote the following Letter to the old Gentleman he had robbed, and whom as he had informed himself, was still living at the same Place.

SIR,

UNDER the Pressure of severe Necessity, my Misfortunes tempted me to commit so great a Piece of Villainy as the robbing you in Red-Lyon Fields. You may remember, Sir, that I took from you a Green Purse, in which was Seventy Guineas, and Two Diamond Rings, the one of a large, the other of a less Value. The First comes to you inclosed in this, the latter, the same Necessity
which

which urged me so far as to take them, obliged me some Months after to dispose of, which I did for Fourteen Pounds. As a Satisfaction for the Injury I did you, be so good, Sir, as to accept of the inclosed Note of One Hundred Pounds, which I hope will amount to the whole Value of those Things I took from you, and may, I flatter my self, procure your Pardon; the only Thing wanting to make him easy, who is,

SIR,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant.

THIS he took Care to convey by a Ticket Porter of whose Fidelity he was well assured, and having dispatch'd this Affair, he let slip nothing to make his Intended Voyage successful. His Skill in his Profession was such, that he soon had as much Business in the Plantation where he settled, as he knew what to do with, and in seven or eight Years Practice, acquired such an Estate as was sufficient to furnish him with all the Necessaries of Life, upon which he lived when he gave this Account to the Gentleman who

com-

communicated it to me. And as it is an Instance of a Return of Virtue not often to be met with. I thought it might be as useful as any other Relation which hitherto had had a Place in this *Collection*.



The LIFE of JOSEPH SHREWSBERRY,
alias SMITH, a Robber, &c.



THIS unhappy Criminal of whom we are now to speak, was the Son of Parents in so mean Circumstances, that they were not able to give him any Education at all, yet they were careful in carrying him constantly to Church with them, and instructing him as far as they were able in the *Principles* of the *Christian Faith*, and did every Thing their narrow Capacity would give them Leave, in order to enable him to get his Bread in some honest Employment; and then they put him out Apprentice to a *Tanner* in the Neighbourhood, a very honest considerate Man, who treated him with all the Indulgence and Kindness he could have wished, throughout the Time of his Apprenticeship;

ticeship; but was so unfortunate as to fall into the Company of a Set of giddy young People who were totally addicted to *Merry-making and Dancing*; which when he had once got into the Road of, he so neglected his Business, that his Master, after Abundance of Reproofs, was obliged to part with him; he had not at that Time any Designs of doing any Thing like the Fact for which he afterwards suffered; but continuing still to frequent his *Dancing Mates* Company, they promised to put him into a Road to supply him with Money enough to live without working, provided he had Courage to do as they would have him; and he, without considering what he did, giving Consent to their Motions, went out one Evening with *David Anderson, Country Will and Jenny Austin*, and while they stripped one *Thomas Collier*, and robbed him of his Coat and Wastecoa, Hat, a Pair of Silver Buckles and other Things, with a Half Guinea in Gold, and Twenty five Shillings in Silver. For this Offence he was quickly after it was committed apprehended, and sent to *Newgate*, where, upon a plain Proof of the Fact, he was convicted, and ordered for *Execution*.

WHEN this poor Man was under Sentence of Death, he sufficiently repented those idle Hours he had consumed in Dancing, and in
the

the other Merriments into which he had been led by his Companions; he was now sensible how easily he might have lived if he had taken the Advice of his kind Master, who with so much Pains, endeavoured not only to instruct him in his Profession, but also to reclaim him from those Follies in which he saw him engaged; the Thoughts of Death threw him into violent Agonies, from whence his natural Sense of which he had a great deal, at last in some measure recovered him; and when upon the coming down of the Dead-Warrant, he saw there was no Hopes left for him in this Life, he applied himself with very great Ardency to secure Happiness in the next; he declared, that the Fact for which he died was the first he ever committed, and that the Depositions against him, were not exactly conformable to Truth. A Day or two before his Death, he appeared to be very calm and very chearful, submitted with a perfect Resignation to the Lot which he had befallen him. And at the Place of Execution exhorted the People not to let their Curiosity only be satisfied in the Sight of his wretched Death, but he warned them also from the Commission of such Crimes, as might bring them to alike Fate, he suffered on the 3d of November, 1726, at

Tyburn, being then about Twenty-two Years of Age.



The LIFE of ANTHONY DRURY, an Highwayman.



HIS unfortunate Man whose Fate made a great Noise in the Town, at the time it happened; was born of Parents neither mean in Family nor Fortune, in the County of *Norfolk*, where he received his Education, on which no little Pains and Expence was bestowed. As to the particular Circumstances of his Life in his most early Years, as no exact accounts have come to my Hands, so I do not think myself obliged to frame any Adventures for the Entertainment of my Readers; a Practice tho' very common, yet I think unjustifiable in itself, all that I can say is, that it appears he had lived at *Oxford* and *Bicester*, before he came to *Wendover*, at which Place he had a House and Family at the Time of his Death. He was not as far as I am able to learn, bred up to any particular Profession whatever; his

his Parents leaving him in Circumstances capable of supporting himself: However, whether he arrived at it after under some Misfortunes, or had it discovered to him before; certain it is, that he gain'd some Knowledge in the Art of curing Smoaking Chimneys, by which he got very considerably, and from whence he derived the Name of the *Smoaky Chimney Doctor*, by which he was commonly known in the County of *Bucks*. Some few Years before his Death, he married a Widow Gentlewoman at *Oxford*, of a considerable Fortune. The World tho' something too largely reported, that she had Fifteen hundred Pounds: However it were, he still addicted himself to Women, and in all Probability made her but an indifferent Husband, since she took so little care about him, when in the midst of so great Calamities: However it were, he maintained a tolerable Character in his Neighbourhood, and his Credit had not been impeached in any Degree, when he committed the Fact I am going to relate. On the Twenty-fifth of September, 1726. he attacked the *Bicester* Waggon as it was coming from *London*, and committed the following Robberies therein, viz. he took from *Thomas Eldridge* fifteen Moidores, two hundred and ten Guineas, eighty half Guineas, the Goods and Money of

of Mr. *Burrows*, Sept. 25th. He was likewise indicted, and found guilty for assaulting *Sarah* the Wife of *Robert King*, on the Highway, and robbing her of two Shillings and Six-pence; as likewise on a Third Indictment, for assaulting the aforesaid *Thomas Eldrige*, and taken from him a Callicoe Gown and Petticoat, value twenty Shillings, the Goods of *Giles Betts*; there was a fourth Indictment against him, for assaulting *Mary* the Wife of *Joseph Page*, and taking from her two Shillings and Six-pence, but the three former being all Capital, the Court did not think proper to try him upon this.

While he lay under Sentence of Death, he did not discover any signs of excessive Fear, but appeared rather perplexed, and confused then dispirited, or dejected; he entertained at first great hopes of a Reprieve, at least, in order to Transportation, and for obtaining it he spent a great deal of time in writing to several Friends, who he Thought might be instrumental in procuring it; However he was far from neglecting the Concerns of his Soul, but read daily with much seeming Diligence several little Books proper for a Man in his Condition, and when ever he attended at Chapel behaved with the utmost Gravity, praying, if we may guess from exterior Signs, with much fervent and Devotion. He

was

was a Man very well acquainted with the Principles of the Christian Religion, and was in all Appearance better persuaded of the Merit and Efficacy of his Saviour's Passion than People often are in his Condition.

As to his Capacity it appeared to have been very tolerable in itself, and to have received many Advantages from Education: How he acquir'd the Art of curing Smoaky Chimnies is not very well known, he having been breed up to no Trade whatsoever; but coming into the World with a little Fortune left him by his Parents, he lived thereupon with a tolerable Reputation, until the Time of his Marriage. When he was first under Sentence he was very desirous of having his Wife come to Town, and for that purpose wrote her several pressing Letters, to which he received no Answer, this gave him great Disturbance; he thereupon wrote to a Friend in the Country, who lived near her, on whom also he had a strong Dependance, intreating him to go to his Wife, and sollicite her not absolutely to Desert him in his extream Calamity, but come up to Town with him, in order to make their last Efforts for his Preservation. This Epistle however proved in the main as unsuccessful as the rest, tho' it procured him an Answer, wherein the Person he wrote to, informed him, that his

Wife was extreemly Lame, insomuch, that she could not put on her own Cloaths, that her Servant was gone, that she had not Money wherewith to defray the Expences of a Journey to Town, much less to assist him in his Distress; as for himself, his Friend excused his coming, by reason of a great Cold, which he had caught in *London*, when he came up before to attend Mr. *Drury's* Affairs, hereupon the unfortunate Criminal bethought himself of an other Expediment, which he imagined would not fail of ingaging Mrs. *Drury* to come to *London*, he informed her by Letter, that in the beginning of his Troubles he pawn'd some Silver Plate in Town for four and twenty Pounds, that it was more then double the Value, and might probably be lost on his Death; to this his Friend wrote him back, that if any Body would take the Plate out, and give Advice thereof to Mrs. *Drury*, she would repay them, and gratifie them also for their Trouble; when this Letter came to the poor Man's Hand, he said, he was now satisfied that his Wife did not desire he should Live, however he heartily forgave her.

He constantly denied that he had ever been concern'd in any Act of a like kind with that for which he died, he acknowledged that with what his Wife had, and the
Business

Business he followed, he might have lived very gently in the Country, that he had not indeed been very prudent in the Management of his Affairs, however it was no Necessity that forced him on the base and wicked Act for which he died, the sole Cause of his committing, which was as he solemnly, and constantly protested, the repeated Sollicitations of *King* the Waggoner, who for a considerable time before represented the Attempt to him, as a Thing no way dangerous in itself, and which would bring him a very large Sum of ready Money; that as soon as *King* perceived that his Insinuations began to make some Impression, he opened himself more fully as to the Facility of robbing the *Bister* Waggon, wherein says he you will find generally a pretty handsome Sum of Money, and as to Opposition, depend on't you shall meet with none; that at last these Speeches prevailed on him, and it was agreed, the Waggoner should have half the Booty for his Advice and Assistance, and the better to conceal it, *Drury* was directed to rob *King's* Wife of about Four Pounds, which was all she had about her.

A Minister of the Church of *England*, who was either acquainted with *Mr. Drury*, or out of a charitable Intention, attended him at the request of his Friends, took a-
Q 4 bundance

bundance of pains to give him just Notions of his Duty in that unfortunate State, into which his Folly had brought him; he repeated to him, the Reasons which render a publick Confession necessary from those who dye by Judgment of the Law, he exhorted him not to equivocate, or even extenuate in his Declarations concerning his Offence. Mr. Drury heard him with great Patience, seemed to be much affected with the Remonstrances which were made to him, and finely promised, that he would act sincerely in the Confessions he made to the Publick; adding, that he had none in whom to trust but God alone, and therefore he would not offend him. The Reverend Divine to whom he spoke approved his Resolution, and promised to afford him all the Assistance in his Power till Death.

As soon as the Criminal was satisfied that all Applications, that had been made for Mercy, were ineffectual, and that there was not the least probability of a Pardon, he immediately sent for the Clergyman before mentioned, and desired to receive the Sacrament at his Hands, to which the Gentleman readily assented, uttering only a short previous Exhortation unto a true Repentance, open and genuine Confession, and full and free Forgiveness unto all who had ever injur'd him, or unto whom he bore any ill will.

Mr.

Mr. *Drury* therefore before he received the Elements, owned in exprefs Terms, his being guilty of the Fact, for which he died, affirmed the Truth of what he had formerly said concerning the Waggoner, declared that he forgave both him and his own Wife sincerely, and that having now in some measure eased his Mind, he was no longer afraid of Death.

Mr. *Drury* even after receiving Sentence was by the Keepers of *Newgate*, indulged in having a Room to himself in the *Press-Tard*, which afforded him Leisure, and privacy for his Devotions, and he seemed, especially for the last Days of his Life to make proper use of those Conveniences by excluding himself from all Company, and applying earnestly to God in Prayer for the Forgiveness of his Sins. During the two or three Days succeeding that whereon he received Sentence, a Gentlewoman attended pretty constantly upon him, who she was we can neither say, nor is it very material, but Mr. *Drury* appealing to her in the Presence of some Persons, as to the Truth of what he alledged concerning *King* the Waggoner, she was desired to relate what she knew as to that Point, she answered, she would as far as her Knowledge permitted, and the Account she gave was to this Purpose. Mr. *Drury* carried
me

me out of Town with him in a Chaise to *Wendover*, on the Road we were met by the Waggoner he speaks on, who desired Mr. *Drury* to step out, for he wanted to speak with him; that thereupon he complying with the Waggoner's Request, they walk'd together to a considerable Distance, and there stopping talked to each other very earnestly for sometime, as to the Subject of their Discourse she declared she could say nothing, but as they came back to the Chaise, the Waggoner said, you need not be afraid, you'll be sure to get what you want. To say Truth, it was very odd for a single Man to rob a Waggon to which so many People belonged, in Company with several other Waggon, without any Opposition, tho' it be likewise true that he did not attempt any of the rest.

Some Persons of Quality were prevailed on by his earnest Sollicitations and the Circumstances we have before mentioned to endeavour the procuring him a Pardon, but it was in vain; and it would certainly have been much better for the Man, if he never had any hopes given him, for tho' he did not depend as much on Promises as Men in his miserable Condition frequently do, yet the desire of Life, sometimes excited the hopes of it, and thereby took of his Thoughts
from

from more weighty Concerns, or at least made him more languid and confused then otherways he would have been, for to the very Day before his Death he still entertained some Expectations of Mercy.

The Evening before he suffered a Woman knocked at his Chamber Door, and earnestly desired to speak a few Words to him, he accordingly came towards the Door and asked her what it was she could have to say to him, the Woman after expressing much Sorrow for his Misfortunes, told him she was desired by such a Person to whom she had been Servant, if the thing were possible to learn from his own Mouth, what he had to say against the Waggoner. Mr. *Drury* replied, that he had never had any thought of robbing Waggoners, or any such thing, if the Waggoner had not advised and pressed him to it, so that his Blood, the loss of his Life, and all he had in the World, lay upon that Man; then shutting to the Door, he retired to his Devotions, and continued at them all the Evening, and 'till the Night was considerably spent.

As Death drew very near it seemed not to affect him so much as might be expected, on the Morning of his Execution he appeared not only easy, but chearful, attended at the Prayers in the Chapel with much Composure, and went out of *Newgate* without
any

any Sign of Fright or Disturbance of Mind ; on the Road to Tyburn he appeared serious, but not Melancholy, spoke a good deal concerning the Errors of his former Life, said he had never been addicted to drinking, but had conversed too much with ill Women, which had made his Wife jealous, and caused Home to be very uneasy ; he seemed truly Penitent for these Offences, as he confessed them without any Compulsion, or even without any Questions being asked by those about him.

At the Place of Execution his Courage did not forsake him, he still preserved a great deal of Serenity in his Countenance ; and when he was desired to acquaint the People with any thing he had to say concerning the Crime for which he died, he spoke with a strong Voice, and repeated what he had formerly alledged about King the Waggoner, adding that he advised him also to rob the Banbury Waggon, and that notwithstanding he talk'd of his Wife's having four Pounds about her, yet he took but three Shillings, where on the third Indictment was founded on, which he was convicted ; he then complained of his Wife's Unkindness, and both prayed for the Spectators, and desired their Prayers for him ; as he was leaning on the side of the Cart, the Ordinary told him, that

a Man had charged him the Day before with having married a Man's Daughter at *Norwich*, who is still living. Mr. *Drury* answered, he was reproached by many People, and he forgave them all ; he then called to a Gentleman who was near the Gallows and spoke to him about his Estate, which he had before settled ; afterwards he exhorted the People to live virtuously, and be warned by his Example, and then submitted patiently to his Fate, on *Thursday* the third of *November*, 1726, being at that Time of his Decease about twenty-eight Years of Age.



*The LIFE of WILLIAM MILLER,
an Highwayman, &c.*



As necessary Correction is often a Method by which when young People begin to stray into the Paths of *Vice*, they are deterred and brought back again into the Road of Vertue ; yet when this is cautiously inflicted or done in a violent Manner, it frequently excites worse Thoughts than would otherwise probably have entered the

the Breasts of young People thus punished, and instead of hindering them from committing trivial Offences, puts them on doing the worst Things imaginable, in order to deliver them from a State more hateful to them than Death itself. This Criminal *William Miller* was the Son of very honest Parents who lived at *Newcastle upon Tyne*, who took care to give him a good Education, and what was much more commendable, a good Example too: They put him out Apprentice to a Tradesman at *Anwick*, with whom he might have lived tolerably well, had it not been for the Churlishness of his Master's Temper, who was continually picking Quarrels with him, and thereupon beating him inhumanly; at last an Accident happened, which supplied a continual Fund of Anger and Resentment, and this was on Account of *William's* loosing a Horse, which tho' his Friends paid for, yet every time it came into his Master's Head, there was a Battle between them; for *Miller* being now grown pretty big, made Resistance, when he struck him, and not seldom got the better of him, and beat him in his turn, which occasioned such Disturbances and falling out between them, that at last *Miller* took a Resolution for leaving him for good and all, and determined to live as he could up and down the Country. At first

first he was so lucky, as to meet with a Man who employed him readily, treated him with Kindness, and gave him good Advice, without accompanying his Reproofs with Blows ; but he upon discovering that his Man *William* had not served out his Time, but had lived only five Years and a half with his Master, and then he absolutely refused to suffer him to work with him any longer. It was with great Reluctancy that *Miller* parted with this Master, and he became every Day after more and more uneasy, because he found no other Master would let him work with them upon the same Account, so that by Degrees he was reduced to the greatest Necessity in the Country, and tho' he was willing to work, yet could not tell which way to turn his Hand.

In the midst of these Perplexities, he be-
thought himself of coming up to *London*,
which he put in Execution, and on his Arri-
val here, listed himself as a Soldier in one of
the Regiment of Guards, and as it is no very
hard Matter in this Town, got abundance
of amorous Affairs upon his Hands ; with
one Woman he lived a short time after his
coming up to *London*, but her he soon turn'd
off, for the sake of another, who was a
Blacksmith's Wife, and whom he married,
notwithstanding her first Husband was then
to

to his Knowledge alive, which was indeed the source of a great Part of his Misfortunes, since what between the Woman's drinking, and the Money which the Husband got out of him, for permitting him to live quietly with her, he was notwithstanding he had learnt a new Employment, *viz.* that of a *Basket-Maker*, which kept him so miserably poor, and the Woman having brought him a Child to encrease his Expences, he at last was forced whether he would or no to leave her and it both; after this he associated with another Woman, and at length married her also, with whom he lived quietly enough until the Time of his Death. These numerous Intreagues drew him of Consequence into a multitude of other Vices, which both lost him his Reputation, and damaged his Understanding, especially when he came to drink hard, which he at last did to such a Degree, that he was seldom or never Sober, or if he were the reflecting on his Misfortunes pushed him on getting drunk as fast as he could, a Case but too common amongst the Meaner sort of People, who as they have no *Philosophy* or *Learning* to support them, endeavour to drown all Care by forgetting.

Whether *Miller* really intended to go a robbing at the Time he committed the Fact
for

for which he died, or whether Drunkenness and the Sense even in that Condition which he retained of his Misfortunes on a sudden suggested to him the stripping of the old Man *Nicholas Bourn* under the Favour of the Night; certain it is, tho' from motive we cannot determin'd, that he attack'd the Man and took from him his Coat and Hat: A Watchman on the injured Person's crying out run immediately to his Assistance, and with his Pole, notwithstanding *Miller* drew his Bayonet, knocked him down, and so seized on and delivered him up to Justice; at the next Sessions at the *Old-Baily* he was indicted for this Fact; and the same was very fully and clearly proved against him, yet tho' he had no Friends capable of procuring him either a Reprieve or Pardon, he had the good luck to remain a considerable space under Condemnation, viz. from one Sessions to another before the Report was made, and so had the greater leisure left him for Repentance.

During the space he lay in the *Condemn'd Hold*, he expressed a very hearty Sorrow for all his Offences, and particularly regreted his having addicted himself so much to the Company of Women, which as it at first led him into Expences, they naturally brought him into narrow Circumstances, and his Necessities

cessities unfortunately put him upon taking that fatal Method of supplying himself; yet in the midst of these Tokens of Penitence and Contrition, several Women came still about him, he resolv'd to send the Child he had by the Second down to his Friends in the Country, not doubting as he said, but that they would take care of it, and for the last of those who went for his Wife, he really looked upon her as such, and therefore treated her with more Kindness and Affection than he did any of the rest; however, doubtless they were no great helps to him in his Preparations for Death, and amongst the other Miseries produced by our View, this is not a small one, that they continue to pursue us even to the last, and fasten so strongly upon our Thoughts and Inclinations, that as at first, they defeated all Consideration, so in the end they are in Danger of preventing a hearty and sincere Repentance.

As to the particular Fact for which he was to die, he acknowledged himself guilty thereof, but objected for all that to the several Circumstances that were sworn against him at his Trial, nor could all the Arguments that were used towards him, persuade him, that those trifling Variations (for as he himself represented them they were no more)

were

were not now at all Material to him, but that as he justly deserved to die according to his own Confession, it signified little to him, whether the particular steps taken in his Apprehension were exactly stated by the Court or not. As the Day of his Execution drew near, he recided a little from these Objections, and begun to set himself in earnest to acquire that Calmness with which every reasonable Man would desire to meet Death; the Women he forbid visiting him, refused to eat or drink any Thing but what was absolutely necessary to support Nature, applied himself regularly and constantly to his Devotions, and seemed to have nothing at Heart, but to reconciling himself to that Divine Being, whom by the multitude of his Crimes he had so much offended. To say Truth, it was not a little wonderful that a Person after continuing for such a length of Time in the Practice of Wickedness and Debauchery, should at last be capable of applying himself with such Zeal and Attention to the Duties of a dying Man, in which he persevered to his last Breath, which he yielded up the 13th of Feb. 1727. at Tyburn, being then Twenty-six Years of Age.



The LIFE of ROBERT HAYNES
a Murderer, &c.

AS from a multitude of Instances in the Course of these Memoirs it has been shewn how great a Misfortune it is to be destitute of Education, so from the following Life it will appear that an improper Education is as dangerous as none at all. *Robert Haynes*, the Criminal whose History we are to give at present, was the Son of Persons in *Ireland* of none of the best Circumstances, who yet afforded him a very good Education, causing him to be instructed, not only in the *Latin*, but also in the *Greek* Tongue, both of which to the Day of his Death he attained a tolerable Knowledge. His Father, it seems, thought he had done every Thing for his Son in breeding him a Scholar, tho' when he grew up to Man's Estate he had nothing to give him, and was forced to let him come over to *England* to list himself in the Foot Guards; his Officers gave him always the Character of a quiet

quiet inoffensive Lad, who injured No-body, nor was himself addicted to those Vices which are common to Men of his Profession. On the contrary, he retained yet strong Notions of those religious Principles in which he had been educated. He addicted himself much to Reading, and tho' his Spirit was not a little broke, by the Consideration of that low Life by which he was obliged to stoop, yet he preserved a becoming Spirit, and a very Gentleman like Behaviour upon all Occasions; so that the Officers of the Regiment very much regreted that Misfortune which brought him to an untimely End; of the Occasion of which we come next to speak, since his Youth and the Regularity of his Life prevented any other Adventures of his coming to our Notice.

It happen'd one *Sunday Evening* as he was walking along *St. James's Park* with two other Soldiers, they met two Men and two Women, *Haynes* unluckily kissed one of the Women, upon which one of the Men turned and broke his Head, and a Quarrel happening thereupon, in which (as was insisted even to the Time of the Death of this unfortunate Person) both Swords were drawn; however that were, he gave his Antagonist a Wound in the Breast of which he died. For this he was apprehended and committed Prisoner to
Newgate,

Newgate, at the ensuing Sessions of the *Old-Baily* he was indicted for willfully murdering *Edward Perry*, by giving him a Wound on the left part of the Right-Breast near the Short-Ribbs, of the Depth of twelve Inches, and of the length of one; he was also indicted a second Time on the Statute of Stabbing, and a third Time upon the Coroners Inquest for wilful Murther. On all three of which, notwithstanding his Defence, and the Witnesses he called, he was found guilty, and altho' some Honourable Persons took a great deal of Pains to procure a Pardon or Reprieve for him, yet it proved to no Purpose, but he and the aforementioned Malefactor were put into the Dead-Warrant and ordered for Execution; for himself he had little Hopes from the Endeavours of his Friends and therefore behaved himself as if he had had none; being not only Constant and Devout at the Publick Exercises in the Chapel, but also ardent in his Devotions in Private and by himself; as the Youth wanted not good Sense, and had not forgot the Education he had received in *Ireland*, so in every Respect while under Sentence he performed what could be expected from a Man of Courage, and a *Christian* under his Circumstances. A Minister out of Charity visited him several Times, and prayed with him, exhorting

exhorting him always to make a clear and candid Confession of the Fact, and since there were no hopes, not to go to Death with a Lye between his Lips ; yet he persisted still in what he had at first declared, and continued to assert the Truth of that Declaration, untill the Gaol Sickness brought him so low, that he was scarce able to speak at all. In this low State of Health he continued 'till within two or three Days of his Death, when he began to pick up strength a little, and as soon as he was able to go up the Stairs, attended as usual the Devotions of the Chapel, and in this Frame and Disposition of Heart remained until the Day of his Execution came, upon which he appeared not only Calm but Chearful, received the Sacrament as is usual with Malefactors at the Day of their Death, and behaved at it in a very pious and religious Manner. When he came to *Tyburn* he stood up, and intended to have spoke to the People, but finding himself took weak, he referred to a Paper, which he delivered to Mr. *Applebee* a Printer, and which contained the Substance of what if he had been able he would have there spoke ; and then after a few private Ejaculations, easily resigned up his Breath at the same Time with the before-mentioned Malefactor, being then in his One and Twentieth Year

Year of his Age. I thought proper to insert the Copy of that Letter I have before spoken off, and it follows *verbatim*.

A Copy of a Paper delivered by ROBERT HAYNES to Mr. APPLEBEE the Evening before his Execution, which he intended to have spoke to the Spectators, but was prevented by his long Sickness whilst in *Newgate*.

GOOD PEOPLE,

I Am to suffer by Law an ignominious Death (God's Will be done) which untimely End I never expected. I am a Youth, and it's above Twelve Months since I enlisted into his Majesty's Service. The Character of my Behaviour in that Time I will leave to my Acquaintance to declare; my Character was sufficiently testified at my Trial by Gentlemen of Worth and Honour. I pray God bless them for their Christian Charity; I praise God my Resolution to live uprightly was no constraint; as for the Cause I suffer, and the horrid Imputation I am charged with, which is rendered Murther, (from my Soul I abhor) I now declare as I expect Salvation, I am unjustly accused, but I freely forgive my Prosecutors, as I hope to be forgiven; for what I did was
accidental

accidental, and in my own Vindication. The real Truth is as follows.

The two Soldiers that were my Evidence desired my Company to drink with them; as we were returning home through the Park, passing by two Women, and being warm with Liquor, I presumed to give one of them a Kiss, the other was a married Woman, and resenting my Freedom, called out to her Husband Edward Perry deceased, and to Toms that walked before, both entire Strangers to me; they returned, Toms advanced towards me abruptly speaking, and struck me over the Head and Shoulders with a Stick, which stun'd me; likewise urged the Deceased to quarrel with me. The Deceased Perry enraged, swore he'd see me out, and struck me with his Sword in his Scabbard over the Head; he drew his Sword and made several Passes at me; I still retreated till provoked to draw my Sword to preserve myself. This Affair was in the Night, I received a Wound in my Right-Hand Thumb, and a thrust thro' my Coat. This I declare to be the whole Truth, as I shall answer before my great God; though my Prosecutors Toms and the deceased Man's Wife swore quite the reverse, which took Place to my Ruin. I pray God forgive them their Trespases, as I hope Forgiveness for my own. I pray God bless my good Colonel for his Care.

and Endeavours for my Safety; I pray God bless him with Length of Days, and Prosperity in all his Undertakings. I thank God, I never wronged Man, Woman or Child, to my Knowledge; nor was I ever inclined to quarrel. I heartily beg of God, Pardon and Forgiveness for my Sins, and I confide in the Merits of my dear Saviour, who died for the World. I was baptized and bred a Member of the Church of England (tho' an unworthy and unfortunate one) in which Communion I hope for Salvation through my blessed Redeemer.

Sunday, February the 12th, 1726.

ROBERT HAYNES.



The LIFE of THOMAS TIMMS, THOMAS PERRY, EDWARD BROWN,
Footpads.



HIS poor unhappy Man, *Thomas Timms*, was the Son of mean Parents in the Country, and as indifferently educated as he was born; so that his future ill Deeds were capable of some little
Extenua-

Extenuation. His Friends and Parents with much to do raised Money enough to put him out Apprentice to a *Chair-Carver*, with whom he lived very easily and honestly during the Space of his Apprentiship, coming out of it with the Character of an honest religious young Lad, which he maintained after he was set up and married; and had probably continued to maintain it to the End of his Life, if he had not fallen into unhappy Circumstances, by being out of Work, which obliged him to come up to *Town*, where for a while he lived pretty well upon his Business; but at last it so far fell off, that he was obliged to list himself a *Soldier* in the first *Regiment* of *Guards*, notwithstanding which he worked still at his *Trade*, as much as it was possible for him to do, and to perform his Duty; but Misfortunes still crowding upon him, he grew at first Melancholy, and at last took to Drinking, in the Company of ill Women, who soon drew him in to thinking of taking dishonest Methods to obtain Money for the Support of their Debaucheries. Amongst others of his Acquaintance, there was a Woman who had formerly lived with a very eminent *Lawyer* in the City. It was said she had a greater Familiarity with her Master than she ought to have had, from

whence she took the Liberty to cheat him most egregiously, especially by counterfeiting Receipts from most of the Tradesmen with whom her Master had any Dealing; by which Means she retained the Money which should have paid him, in her own Hands. In some Months after, however, the Roguery was discover'd, and her Master being newly married, he took this Opportunity to discharge her suddenly, and to stop her Mouth from telling Tales, threatned her with a Prosecution: However, he promised her, if she went into any Lodgings, and gave him Notice, he would take care she should not want, until she could get herself into some Way of Business or other. This Gentleman had three *Clerks*, all of good Families, and good Fortunes. The Wench, after she was out of the House, first went into a Neighbourhood, where the eldest of these Clerks, and his Relations were very well known; here she took upon her to be his Wife, and said, that they were privately married for fear of disobliging his Relations; by the Help of this, she got so far into Credit, that she took up near *a hundred and twenty Pounds* Worth of Things, before the least Apprehension was had of her being a Cheat; and then removing those Lodgings, she fixed herself in a first Floor, within

within a few Doors of the *Guardian* of her *Master's second Clerk*; she gave it out there as she had done before, that she was privately married to this young Gentleman, and on the Credit thereof, took up near a hundred Pounds, in Silks and Shifts; but just as she was upon the Point of moving off, and playing the same Game with the Third, she was detected and committed to *Bridewel*; from thence she found Means to escape, by wheedling one of the *Keeper's Servants*, and afterwards took Lodgings in the House where this *Timms* worked; whether she had any Hand in persuading him to go out a Robbing, or no, I cannot take upon me to say; but soon after, he with his Companions, *Perry* and *Brown*, on the 3d of May, went out with a Design to rob upon *Hounslow-Heath*. All that Night they lay in the Fields, the next Morning they met a poor old Man, who telling them he had no Money, they let him go without misusing him. Not long after, they stopped *Samuel Sells*, coming from *Windsor*, in his Chair. He it seems kept a Publick House there, him they commanded to deliver, whereupon he gave them three half Crowns; but they insisting upon it, that that was too little, he thereupon gave them ten Shillings more, which both he and his Companions averred was

all that they took from him, though *Sells* at their Trial, swore to a much larger Sum, and that one of them held a *Truncheon* over him, and threatned him, with Abundance of Oaths, in Case he made any Resistance: All of them denied this Part of the Charge, even to Death; and said, that though they had *Truncheons*, yet they made no use of them, but kept them either in their Breasts, or under their Coats.

THOMAS PERRT, the second of these Malefactors, was born of Parents in such wretched Circumstances, that when he was grown a good big Lad, and Death suddenly snatched them away, he found himself destitute of Money, of Business, and even of Cloaths to cover him. He thereupon travelled up to *London*, and put himself Apprentice to a *Glass-Grinder*, with whom he served his Time very honestly and faithfully. Then he married, and liv'd by working very hard, in a reputable Manner for about a Twelve-month; after which he listed in the first *Regiment* of *Foot-Guards*, in which he served till the Peace of *Utrecht* in *Flanders*. After the Conclusion of which, he returned to *London* in the same *Regiment*, in which he continued to serve till this Misfortune overtook him. For the last Year of his

his Life, he had it seems led a more loose and extravagant Course than in all his Days before; contracting an Acquaintance with several Women of the Town, Creatures who are the utter Ruin of all such unhappy Men, especially of all unletter'd unexperienc'd Persons as fall into their Snares. Some little Time before he joined with *Timms*, and his other Companion in this Robbery, he had the Misfortune of having his Leg bit by a Dog at *Windsor*, where he was quarter'd, having no Friends, and but a small Allowance to subsist on, he fell under great Miseries there, and on his Return to Town, those who had formerly employ'd him in *Glass-Grinding*, taking distaste at his rude and wicked Behaviour, refused to have any Thing more to do with him; whereupon, overwhelmed with Evils, and not knowing which way to turn him, he readily gave way to the Solicitations of *Timms*, who, as he declared, first propos'd their going upon the Highway, a Crime which hitherto had not entered into *Perry's* Head. However, he yielded too readily thereto, and with the Persons who had shar'd in his Crimes, came to share an ignominious and untimely Death. While under Sentence, he applied himself with great Seriousness and Attention, both to the publick Devotions of the Chapel,

and to what was privately read to them in the Place of their Confinement; so that though he was very illiterate, he was far from being obstinate; and though he wanted the Advantages of Education, he was not deficient in Grace, which we may therefore hope he might obtain Mercy.

EDWARD BROWN, the last of these unfortunate Criminals, drew his first Breath in the City of *Oxford*, and by the Care of his Parents, attained to a tolerable Degree of Knowledge in the Christian Faith, as also in Writing, Reading, and whatsoever was necessary in that Station of Life, which his Parents designed him for. Being arrived at an Age proper to be put out an Apprentice, they placed him with a *Glass-Grinder*, to whom he served an Apprenticeship faithfully, and to his good liking when out of Time. He worked hard as a Journeyman, married a Wife, and lived in Reputation and Credit for some small Space; but falling unluckily into loose Company, and giving himself up entirely to Drinking, and running after ill Women, which soon ruin'd him in the Country, and obliged him to come up to *London*, for the Sake of Subsistence. How long he had been here, or of what standing his Acquaintance was with the

the other two Criminals, I cannot take upon me to say; only he in General was a Fellow of greater Openness in his Behaviour, than any of the Criminals before mentioned. He said, that when they had all taken their Cups pretty freely together, and had spent every Farthing that they had amongst them, it was then resolved to go upon the Highway for a Supply; but he could not say who was the Proposer of that Scheme. That he himself had a Sword and Cane, and the rest Truncheons, when they attacked Mr. *Sells*. He gave them at two several Times, seventeen Shillings. and when they pressed still for more, said he had but eighteen Pence about him, and begged they would let him have that to come to Town with, which he said they agreed to, and did not offer him any ill Usage whatsoever. At the same Time these unhappy Men were under Sentence of Death, *Alexander Jones*, *John Piatt*, *Mary Reynolds*, *Silvia Sberlock* and *Anne Senior*, were also condemned for several Offences; and as is but too common with Persons in their Condition, all of them entertained strong Notions of Reprieves or Pardons; so that when the Dead-Warrant came down, and these three found themselves ordered for Execution, they were not a little surprized; but as they had much nat-

tural Courage, they made even that Surprise turn to their Advantage, and applied themselves with greater Earnestness than ever, to the Duties necessary to be practised by People in their sad State. When the Day of their Execution came, they were carried in one Cart to *Tyburn*; and as they had been Companions in that single Action, which had brought all of them to Death, so there was no-body to share in that unhappy Fate with them, nor were they disturbed with the Sorrows of other Criminals, which often distract one anothers Devotions at *Tyburn*; where, on the contrary, their Behaviour was grave and decent, the publick Devotions were closed with a Psalm, and they with many Demonstrations of Repentance, resigned their Lives, on the 11th of *August*, 1727. *Timms* being about 28 Years of Age, *Perry* near 40, and *Brown* somewhat less than 24 Years old, at the Time of their Execution.

The

*The LIFE of ALICE GREEN, a Cheat,
a private Thief and Housebreaker.*

AMONGST these melancholy Relations, *Misery* and *Death*, I fancy it is some ease to my Readers, as well as to my Self, when the Course of my *Memoirs*, leads me to mention a Story as full of Incidence, and followed by a less *tragick* End than the Rest. This Woman, whose Life I am about to relate, was the Daughter of an under Officer to one of the Colleges at *Oxford*. As the Doctrine of making-up small Salaries, by taking-up large Perquisites, prevails there as well as elsewhere, *Alice's* Father made a Shift to keep himself, his Wife and five Children, in a handsome Manner, out of 60 *l.* a Year, and what he made besides of his Place. An Affectation of Gentility had infected the whole Family; the old Man had a good Voice, and played tolerably well on the *Fiddle*: This drew Abundance of the young smart Fellows of the University to his House, and that of Course engaged his three Daugh-

ters to take all the Pains they were able to make themselves agreeable. The Mother had great Hopes that fine Cloaths, and a janty Air, might marry her Daughters to some Gentlemen of tolerable Fortunes, and that one of them at least might have a Chance of catching a *Fellow-Commoner* with a *Thousand or two per Annum*; for which Reason, Miss Molly, Miss Jenny, and Miss Alice, were all bred to the Dancing-School, taught to sing prettily, and to touch the *Spinnet* with an agreeable Air. In short, the House was a Mansion of Politeness; and except the two Brothers, one of which was put out Apprentice to a *Carpenter*, and the other to a *Shoemaker*, there was not a Person to be seen in it, who looked, spoke or acted as became them in this Station of Life; but it is necessary that we should come to a more particular Description.

Old *Peter*, their Father, was a Man of mean Birth, and of a Sort of accidental Education. He had lived from his Youth up in *Oxford*, and from the Time he was able to know any Thing, within the *Purlicus* of a College; from whence he had gleaned up a few *Latin* Sentences, Scraps of Poetry; and as the Master-Piece of his Improvements, had acquired a good Nack at *Panning*. All which mighty Qualifications, were

were bent to keeping a good House, and drinking two or three Quarts of strong Ale, accompanied with a Song, and two or three Hours scraping at Night. The Mother, again, was the last Remnant of a decay'd Family, who charged its Ruin on the *Civil Wars*. She was exceedingly puffed-up with the Notions of her Birth, and the Respect that was due to a Person not sprung from the Vulgar. Her Education had extended no farther than the Knowledge of *Preserving*, *Pickling*, and making *Fricasees*, a pretty exact Knowledge in the several Kinds of *Points*, and a Judgment not to be dispis'd, in the Choice of *Lace*, *Silks* or *Ribbands*. She affected Extravagance, that she might not appear mean, and troublesomely Ceremonious, that she might not seem to want good Manners; Cloaths for her self and Daughters, a good Quantity of *China*, and some other Exuberances of a Fancy almost turned mad with the Love of Finery, made up the Circle of what took up her Thoughts, the Daughters participating of heir Parents Tempers. But what was wonderful indeed, the Sons were honest, sober, industrious young Men.

In the Midst of all this Mirth and Splendour, the Father died, and left them all totally without Support, other than their own Industry

Industry could procure them ; slender Provision indeed ! Miss *Molly*, the eldest was about 22 at the time of her Father's Death, and her Sisters were each of them younger than her, and *Alice* a Year younger than *Jenny*, and about Eighteen. The Mother was at her Wit's ends to know how to procure a Living for herself and them ; but an old Gentleman in one of the Colleges to whom *Peter* had been very useful, and who therefore attained a grateful Sense of his Service, was so kind as to give Fifty Pounds towards putting out the Daughters ; and took care to see the youngest *Alice* placed with a Mantua-maker in *London*. *Molly* fell into a Consumption, as was generally said, for the Love of a young Gentleman, who used to spend his Evenings at her Father's ; and who marrying a young Lady of suitable Birth and Fortune to himself, was retired into *Shropshire*. *Jenny* run away with a Servitor, and was lost to her Mother and her Friends ; so that *Alice* had it in her Power to be tolerably provided for, if she had inclined to have lived virtuously, and not to have frustrated the Offers of good Fortune ; - but she was wild and silly from her Cradle, born without Capacity, to do good to herself, and indued only with so much Cunning, as served her to ruin others.

The

The first Intreague she had after her coming up to *London*, was with a young Fellow, who was Clerk to a Justice of the Peace in the Neighbourhood; before he saw *Alice* he had been a careful industrious young Man; and through his Master's Kindness and his saving Inclinations, had pick'd up some Money; but from the time that his Master's Lady had a Suit of Cloaths made up with *Alice's* Mistress, and which occasioned her first coming about the House: Poor Mr. *Philip* became the Victim of her Charms, and moaped up and down like a Hen that had lost her Chickens. It was not long before the Justice's Daughters found out his Passion; and having communicated their Discovery to their Maids, so exposed him to be the laughing-stock of the whole House. Never was poor young Fellow so pestered; one asked him whether he liked the Wife with three Trades? Another was enquiring whether he had cast up the amount of Remnants of Silk, Shreds of Lace, and the Savings that might be made out of Linings, Facings and Robings. The Justice took notice that *Philip* had left off reading the News; and the old Lady wondered he had forgot playing upon the Organ in her Husband's Study; but all this served rather to encrease than to abate his Passion; so that
he

he neglected no Opportunity of meeting and paying his Addresses to his Mistress; she was no less careful on her side; and in a short space it was agreed that *Alice* should run away from her Mistress, of whom she was grown heartily weary; and that *Philip* should counterfeit most excessive Grief at his Loss, in order to prevent the least Suspicion of his being privy thereto; having adjusted this, it was not long before they put their Design in Execution; and *Philip* first having provided a Lodging for her in *Brewer's-street*, she on a *Sunday* in the Evening, when all the rest of the Family were out, removed from her Mistress's House in a Court near the *Strand*; taking all that belong'd to her in a Hackney Coach, leaving the Key at an Alehouse. *Philip* had so good a Character, that the Grief he affected on this Occasion passed for Reality upon all the House; and the Flight of *Alice* had no other effect than to excite a new spring of Railery on the loss of his Mistress. He laid out the greatest part of what he had saved in five Years Service in furnishing out two Rooms for her very neatly, passing himself where she lodged for the Son of a Gentleman of Fortune in the Country, who had married against his Friends Consent, and was therefore obliged to keep his Wife in a Place in Privacy, until

till Things at Home could be made easy. For sometime the Lovers lived mighty happily together; and nothing was wanting to compleat *Philip's* Wishes, than that they were married; for *Alice* never making such a Proposal, now and then disturbed his Thoughts, and put him a little out of Humour. Things remained in this State with a little Alteration for about five Months, till an *Irish* Captain coming to Lodge pretty near where *Philip* had plac'd *Alice*, he found a way to see her twice or thrice; and being a Fellow of a smooth Tongue, a handsome Person, and an immoderate Assurance; it was not long before he became Master of her Affections; and the Temper of *Philip* having been always too Grave for her. In about three Weeks time she let the Captain into the Truth of the whole Story; and at his Persuasion, during the Time *Philip* was at *Surry* Affizes, sold off the Furniture of her Lodgings; and directed a Letter to be left for him at his Master's House by the Penny-Post, moved off with her new Gallant.

It would be impossible, should I attempt it, to describe the Agony the poor young Fellow was in at the Receipt of *Alice's* Epistle, in which she told him flatly, she was weary of him, and had got another Gallant, and if he pretended to look after her or give her
any

any other uneasiness, would send a full Account of all things to his Master. This the Jilt was sensible would keep him quiet, for as he depended solely on his Favour, so a Story of this sort would have inevitably deprive him of it for ever. It answered her intent, and the force he put upon his Passions, cost him a severe fit of Sickness. *Alice* in the mean while indulged for about a Week with her *Irish Captain*; at the end of which, he beat her and turn'd her out of Doors; 'twas in vain for her to talk of her Goods and Cloaths; the *Captain* had carried her amongst a sett of his Acquaintance, who on the first Quartel called her a thousand foolish *Eglisb Whores*, and bid her go back to her *Justice's Clerk* again; in the midst of her Affliction, with nothing on but a *Linmen Gown*, and about three Shillings in her Pocket; when the *Watchman* coming his Rounds, found her sitting on the Steps at the Door where the *Captain* Lodged; he asked her what she did there, she said her Husband and she had quarrelled and he had shut her out, the *Watchman* was going away satisfied with the Answer, when the *Captain* called out at the Window, told him she was a *Street-Walker*, and bid him take her away, the Landlady confirmed this, and the Fellow laying fast hold on her Shoulder, compelled her

her to go with him to the *Watch-house*; however a Shilling procured her her Liberty, and a favourable Report to the *Constable*, that she was an honest young Woman, who had the Misfortune to be Married to an ill Husband, who turned her into the Street, and she was afraid would not suffer her to come in again that Night; upon the hearing of which, the *Constable* bid her sit down by the Fire, gave her a Glass of Brandy, and promis'd her she should be as safe and as easy as the Place would allow her for that Night, but unluckily for *Alice*, as she went to take the Glass out of the *Constable's* Hand, he knew her Face, and happening to be the *Baker* who serv'd the *Mantua-maker* with Bread where she liv'd, but the next Morning conducted Mrs. *Alice*, much against her Will, home to her Mistress; one of her *Fellow-Apprentices* ran with the News to the *Justice's*, and one of the Daughters whispered it in *Phillip's* Ears, as he was writing a Recognizance in the *Justice's* Book; *Phillip* no sooner hear'd it, but he fell down in a Swoon, and about half an Hour was spent before they could bring him again to himself; the young Lady who had play'd him the Trick, immediately quitted the Room, and he upon opening his Eyes and perceiving her gone, pretended it was a sudden Fit,
and

and that he had been used to them when a Child. As much as he had suffer'd by this ungrateful Woman, he took the first opportunity to go to a *Coffee-house* within a Door or two of her Mistress, in order to learn what was become of her. There was but one Person in the *Mantua-makers* House who had been trusted with his ever having visited her at all, and they too were ignorant that she had ever run away with him; *Philip* therefore sent for his *Confidance*, from whom he received information, that after snivling and crying for an Hour or two, she took advantage of being left alone in a Par-lour, tho' the Door was lock'd, and getting out at the Window into the Back-yard, made a shift to scramble over the top of the *House* of *Office* into the Court, and so made her Escape to the Water-side, where her Mistress found she had taken a pair of Oars, but tho' they follow'd her to the *Faulcon-Stairs*, yet they were not able to retrieve her. *Philip* at this News was exceedingly griev'd, and returned home again very disconsolate on this Occasion. *Alice* in the mean time lurk'd about in *St. George's-Fields* till Evening, and then crossing the *Bridge*, walk'd on towards *St. James's*; however dirty and despiseable her Dress, yet as she had a very pretty Face, and a very engag-ing

ing manner of Speaking at first Sight, she drew in a *Merchant's Book-keeper* as she walk'd down *Cornhill*, to carry her to a certain *Tavern* at the Corner of *Bishopsgate-Street*, where after a good Supper, and a bottle or two of Wine, she engag'd him to take her a Lodging, and by degrees to give her a great deal of fine Cloaths; in return for which she flatter'd him so greatly, that he grew as fond of her, and as much a Fool, as ever *Philip* had been.

In the mean time her Sister who was much of her Disposition, had been turned off by the young Fellow she had run away with from *Oxford*, and in a miserable Condition, had trotted up to Town, in order to see whether she could have better Luck with another *Gallant*. One Night as she was stroling through *Leadenhall-street* in her Vacation, she saw her Sister *Alice* and the *Book-keeper* who kept her, walking home with a Servant, and a Candle and Lanthorn before them. *Fenny* did not think fit to Speak to them, but dogging them privately home, and called upon her Sister next Day, and was mighty well receiv'd; the Couple now took every opportunity (notwithstahding the allowance of the *Book-keeper*) to make *Alice* strol out with her together, and wandered about mightily in quest of Adventures, till
it

it began to grow towards ten o'Clock, and the fear of a Visit from her *Keeper*, drove *Alice* to her Lodgings; this Trade without any remarkable Accident, was practised for about three Months, when on a sudden the *Book-keeper* vanished, and *Alice* in three Weeks time heard not a Word of him. This threw both the Sisters into a heavy peck of troubles, and the more because he had always kept it a Secret in whose Family he liv'd, and went to the People where *Alice* Lodg'd by another Name than his own. However they got Money enough by *Sparks* they pick'd up to live pretty easily together; and that no misfortune might go too near their Hearts; they fell to drinking of Brandy at the rate of a quart or two a Day. It seems the Woman at whose House they lodg'd was her self given to Drinking, and so by treating her they fell into the same Vice. The Landlady in return was mighty Civil to them, and every now and then invited them down Stairs to drink with her. One Evening when they were below Stairs, there happen'd to be some discourse about a Trial at the *Sessions-House*, whereupon *Alice* expressed her desire of seeing the Trials, and her Sister agreeing in the Request; their Landlady agreed to carry them the next Morning, accordingly they were

were at *Sessions-house* by that time the Court was set; and the two young Sluts was exceedingly merry at the wretched appearances the poor Creatures made at the Bar; when in the midst of their mirth, a Man was brought up to plead to his Indictment, who had only a Blanket wrapped over his Shirt to keep him from the Weather; they were laughing and talking to some of the People behind them, when *Fenny* patted her Sister to take notice of what the Man was charg'd with. *Alice* listned and hear'd the Indictment read, which was for breaking open an *Escrutore* and taking out of it *Ninety Guineas*, two *Diamond Rings* and a *Gold Tweezer*; when the *Clerk* had done Reading, the Criminal answered with a low Voice, not *Guilty*, and the *Keeper* thereupon took him from the Bar, as he turned, his Face being towards them, *Alice* saw that it was the *Book-keeper* who had liv'd with her, and in a low Voice whisper'd her Sister, as I hope to live its our *Tom*, they did not stay much longer, but began to consider as soon as they got home, what was to be done. *Alice* was sensible that the *Tweezer-Case* mention'd in the Indictment had been given her, and was under a thousand frights and fears that it should be discover'd, and was above all, wonderous careful of her Landlady, that she

she did not go any more to the Trials that *Sessions*; the Day they hear'd that Sentence was pass'd, *Jenny* went to one of the Runners at *Newgate*, and giving him a Shilling, asked what was become of such a Person, the Fellow answered that he was to be Transported; *Jenny* came immediately home with the News to her Sister; she shed a few Tears, and said what if he should want in *Newgate*? nay, says *Jenny*, let him want what he will, I'm sure you shall not be Fool enough to Pawn your Things to releive him, and as her Fit of compassion was soon over, so they determined to remove their Lodgings, for fear if he were under necessity (as they could not well doubt he was, considering the Figure he made at his Trial) he might send to her; but they needed not to have been under any apprehensions of that Sort, for Shame and Grief had brought him so low, that the *Gaol Distemper* seizing on him, he died the same Week he had been tried, and the Runner to whom *Jenny* had given the Shilling, remembring her Face, stopp'd her in the Street, and told her the News; when *Alice* heard it, she pretended to fall into Fits, and express abundance of Sorrow and Concern, the Sorrows of which were not however so deep, but that Brandy and two Days time effaced them so well, that

that she dressed her in the best Manner she was able, in order to go out and look for a Spark.

Unfortunately for her, her Amours produced the usual Consequence, a loathsome Distemper, which seizing about the same Time both her Sister and her self, through want of proper Care, ruined both their Constitutions; and the ill Consequences being increased, by the Use of improper Food, they were quickly after in such a Condition, that their infamous Trade of *Prostitution* fell off, and they were in Danger both of *Starving* and *Rotting*. In this Distress, they knew not what to do, till at last advising with an old Woman whom they had scraped Acquaintance with, she readily offered them the Use of her House, and to engage for them to a *Surgeon*, who should compleat their Cure. The Sisters were over-joyed at this, and in a Hurry accepted of her Offer, removing themselves, and what little valuable Moveables they had the next Week. They were received with great Courtesy and Kindness, and the old Woman, from an Acquaintance of three Weeks, assur'd them that they were no less dear to her, than if they had been her own Daughters. This Treatment continued till they were in the Height of a *Salivation*,

and then they were acquainted with Usage of another Sort. This Distemper was very expensive, their Course of *Physick* very troublesome, it required much Attendance, they were Strangers to her, and so by Degrees the old Woman got from them most of the *Trinckets* they brought with them. So that when they were come a little to themselves, and nourishing Food was proper to restore them to perfect Soundness, they had no Way left to procure it, but by pawning or selling their Cloaths, which being quickly done, and the Money spent, Nakedness and Poverty became their Companions. Thus plung'd in Misery, and exposed to the daily Insults of the *Bawd*, who treated them with great Cruelty, now she had them absolutely in her Power. *Alice* was so very uneasy under it, that having one Night got a few clean Things about her, she resolved to venture out in a thin linnen Gown, to see what might be done, to free them from these Difficulties. She had not got lower than *Southampton-Street* in the *Strand*, before a Gentleman well-dress'd, though much in Liquor, invited her to go with him to his Chambers. He carried her as far as *Essex-Street*, and then turning down to the *Temple*, brought her into Rooms up two Pair of Stairs, richly furnished. She saw no-body that

that he had to attend him, but every Thing seemed in very exact Order, and so without farther Ceremony, to bed they went. His Weight of Liquor, soon forced him to *Sleep*; but *Alice*, whose Head was full of the Miseries which she had so long gone through, arose, put on her Cloaths; searching his Pockets, she found a gold Watch, nineteen Guineas and a large gold Medal. She was so much surpriz'd with the Richness of the Booty, and yet this being her first Fact, so confounded within herself, that she knew not well what to do. At last, she with great Difficulty forced open the Chamber-Door, which he had locked, and laid the Key where she could not find it. Next she came to the outward Door of the Chambers, in which the Key was, and so there was no Difficulty in getting out; but then finding it impossible to shut the Door after her without locking it, she e'en did so, and carried away the Key. She made all the Hast she could Home to her Landlady, and without considering the Consequence, paid her six Pounds which she demanded, got some Cloaths out of her Hands, which she had retained as a Security for the Money. Then she removed with her Sister, as privately as she could, to an Inn in *Smithfield*, and from thence, the next Day, they

removed to a little Lodging in a narrow Lane by *St. Jones's*, where down-right Fear made them keep so much within Doors, that they had almost spent all their Money in six Weeks Time, without thinking of any Method to get more. At last, *Fenny*, as being least in Danger, equipped herself as well as she could, and ventured about Nine o'Clock one Evening into the Streets. She walked about half an Hour, without meeting with any Adventure; but at last pick'd up an innocent Country looking Lad; they had not gone far together towards a Tavern, before the Constable and his Body-Guard of Watchmen surpriz'd and hurried them away to *Woodstreet-Compter*. There she remain'd till the next Day, when it was intimated to her, that if she could produce a Couple of Guineas, they would be looked upon as good Bail. She sent privately for her Sister *Alice*, who not having so much Money, foolishly offered the gold Medal as a Security. Some of the Limbs of the Law thereabouts, was acquainted with the Gentleman of the *Temple* who lost it, and it being shewn up and down to know its Value, they declared it was stolen; and *Alice*, instead of procuring her Sister's Liberty, was forced into the same Prison, and confined with her. As it was about three Weeks to Sessions, they were

were permitted to remain at the *Compter* during that Time.

This was a deeper Plunge of Misfortune than they had ever yet known, and the Fear of Hanging, was so strong, that *Alice*, in order to avoid it, resolved upon making an Application to a Person to whom otherwise she would never have made herself known; who should this be, but *Philip*, who was lately married, but still did the Business of his old Master the Justice, and therefore was always to be met with at his House, tho he had now got a little Place upon which he was capable of Living pretty handsomely. *Alice's* Letter reached him just as he was sitting down to Dinner. The Surprize he was in was so great, that it could not be hid from the Company; however, to cover the Cause of it, he pretended that it brought him News of a Person being gone off, for whom he was Bail, and which obliged him not to lose a Minute in going to see what might be done; so putting on his Hat, and intreating some Gentlemen who were at Table with him, not to disturb themselves, for he should be back in half an Hour; away he went directly to the *Compter*, and having an Influence over the People in Power there, he prevailed to have her let out to an adjacent

Tavern. The Affliction ſhe had gone thro', had alter'd, but not impair'd her Beauty. *Philip*, as ill uſed as he had been by her, could not forbear burſting into Tears, at the Sight of the miſerable Condition in which ſhe was. As ſoon as his Surprize was a little over, ſhe acquainted him with the true State of the Caſe, and begged his Aſſiſtance in prevailing on the injured Gentleman to ſoften the Proſecution. He promiſed her all that was in his Power, but deſired to know, after what Manner ſhe intended to live, in Caſe her Liberty could ever be regained. She cry'd, and promiſ'd to work hard for her Bread, rather than fall into that miſerable Plight again; and then told him, how unfortunately it happened, that her Siſter alſo was involved in the ſame Calamity. *Philip*, at parting, preſented her with a Guinea, and told her, ſhe ſhould have the ſame every Week, while ſhe remained there; aſſuring her alſo, that he would not fail coming to her the next Day at Noon, and informing her of the Temper in which he found her *Antagoniſt*. It happened, that the *Templer* was *Philip's* intimate Acquaintance, and had a Seat near his Father's Houſe in the Country. *Philip* told him the Truth of the Story, and how he came to intereſt himſelf ſo far in the Affair.

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The Gentleman was not hard to be prevailed on, and said, he did not conceive it would be of any Service to the Women to let them be set at Liberty, considering the Course of Life they would be oblig'd immediately to fall into for Bread. That for his Part, he inclined rather to procure them Liberty to transport themselves; and that they might not be destitute in a strange Country, he was not averse, notwithstanding his Loss, to give them something towards putting them in a Condition of getting their Livelihood when they came over. *Philip* readily agreed to this, tho he was fearful of its proving an Expedient little agreeable to the Women; however, the next Day, when he went, he sent for them both to the Tavern, and propos'd it; when, to his great Wonder, *Alice*, said it was the most agreeable Thing that could have befallen her. She was sensible of the Manner in which she had lived, in her native Country, and of the Difficulty there would be of her amending here; and tho her Sister *Fenny* was at first very averse, she yet quickly brought her to be as complying as herself, and to wish nothing more than the Possibility of living Honest, in any of the *Plantations*. *Philip* carried this News at Night to the *Temple*, and the Gentleman there, who

was a great *Humourist*, was so much taken with the Temper and Spirit of *Alice*, that he would needs see her again, and thereupon accompanied *Philip* the next Day to the Place of her Confinement. There every Thing was soon settled, the *Templer* procured their Discharge, put them to board at a House which he could command, and bargained with a Captain of a *New-England* Vessel for their Passage thither; not as for Persons who had been guilty of any Misdeeds here, but as of young Women of good Families, who were unwilling to go to Service here, and have therefore got their Friends to raise as much Money as would send them over there, where perhaps they might meet with better Fortune. In short, their two Benefactors furnished them with Things to the amount of *two hundred Pounds*, accompanied them themselves on Board the Vessel, and recommended them to the Captain, with as much Earnestness, as if they had been their near Relations. Coming in this Light into the *Colonies* abroad, they were received with great Hospitality, and treated with much Kindness and Respect; and in fine, after remaining here about half a Year, *Jane* married a Gentleman of as good Fortune as any in the Country, and her Sister, not long after, had the same Luck.

Luck. *Jane* did not indeed survive it long; but *Alice* outliv'd her first Husband, and marrying a Second, return'd into *England*, where she is still Living in as much respect and esteem as any Gentlewoman in the County where she inhabits.



An Account of the horrid Murder of Mr. Widdington Darby, committed in his Chambers in the Temple on the 11th of April 1727, for which One Henry Fisher was apprehended and committed to Newgate, from whence he escaped.



THE deceased Mr. *Darby* was a young Gentleman who made an extraordinary good Appearance in the World; he wore generally fine Rings, rich Snuff-Boxes, and an extraordinary Gold-Watch about him; these Things possibly tempted a needy Person of his Acquaintance to be guilty of that barbarous Murder, which was committed upon him. He lived in the Chambers belonging to Sir *George Cook's* Of-

fice in the *Temple*; his Servant lived in another Place, and went home every Night, and it happened the Night before, or rather in that wherein he was murdered, that Mr. *Darby* had a good deal of Company with him, who supping late, they did not go away 'till Eleven o'Clock, when Mr. *Darby's* Servant also retired to his Lodgings; the next Morning being *Tuesday* about Nine o'Clock Mr. *Darby* was found Dead in the said Office, his Skull penetrated with a Pistol Ball, his Ear and Hand cut, his Rings, Watch, and other valuables taken away, besides his Escutore broke open, and his Money and Linnen taken thence. The next Day the Coroner's Inquest sat thereon, but being able to make no Discovery of the Murther, they thought fit to adjourn *Sine die*, as soon as the Coroner had made an Order for the Interment of his Corps, which was done accordingly in a Vault in the Church of *St. Andrew's Holbourn*, some time passed before any Light was got into this Affair; at length Mr. *Moody*, who had been upon the Coroner's Inquest which had sat on the Body of Mr. *Darby*, received Information that one *Fisher*, who had been in very bad Circumstances, and as an Acquaintance, had been relieved under him by the deceased Mr. *Darby*, was all on a sudden, since the
Com-

Commission of that Murther, observed to have a great deal of Money; had paid some Debts which had been troublesome to him, and was observed to have some valuable Things about him which had never been seen before; these Circumstances appearing altogether very suspicious, Mr. *Moody* acquainted Mr. *Tork* with it, who had been very Assiduous in taking all Measures possibly for the Discovery of this horid Assignation; he falling readily into Mr. *Moody's* Opinion, they agreed together, that the likeliest Method to find out the Truth, was to go to Mr. *Willoughby*, who was *Fisher's* Landlord, and known to be a very honest Man; accordingly they went to him to a Tavern in *Southampton-street*, where they understood he was, and falling into Discourse about Mr. *Darby's* Murther, they insinuated to him the Suspicions they had of his Lodger. It seems Mr. *Willoughby* was not without some jealousy before they spoke, and therefore acquainted them that he was now out, and therefore a proper time for them to go and search his Box, which Mr. *Tork* readily agreed to, and having locked themselves into the House to prevent any Surprise, they their broke it open, and found in it a pair of loaded Pistols and a dark Lanthorn: Mr. *Willoughby*, while Mr. *Tork* and Mr. *Moody* were

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looking

looking on these Things, broke open another Box, and found in it the top and bottom of a Snuff-box, a Vizard Mask, and a pair of laced Ruffles. The remains of the Snuff-box Mr. *Tork* knew to have belonged to the Deceased, and had reason to suspect the Ruffles also to have been his; so that it was immediately agreed to go before the Honourable Sir *William Tompson*, in order to procure a Warrant, there they made an Affidavit of the several Circumstances attending their Discovery, and Sir *William* upon the Examination also of a Lady, who produced a piece of Lace before she had seen the Ruffle, and declared that if it were Mr. *Darby's* it must tally therewith, which on a Comparison it did very exactly. A Warrant was accordingly granted. It appeared also at the same time upon the Oath of Mr. *Willoughby*, that the Day Mr. *Darby* was murdered, *Fisher* borrowed half a Crown of him to pay his Washer-Woman, and was in the utmost Necessity for Money. A Woman swore that a Person very like *Fisher* was hovering about Mr. *Darby's* Chambers the Night the Murder was committed; and it was proved by the Oath of another Person that *Fisher* came not to his Lodgings till two o'Clock on *Tuesday* Morning, on which Mr. *Darby* was found Murder'd. About eight
o'Clock

o'Clock a Porter came and inform'd *Fisher* of Mr. *Darby's* being Murder'd, at which he shewed little concern and lock'd himself up for some Hours. Things being thus over at Sir *William Thompson's*, Mr. *Willoughby*, Mr. *Tork*, and Mr. *Moody*, return'd to his Lodgings, and about two o'Clock in the Morning he came in, and they seiz'd him, having a Constable and proper Assistance for that Purpose. On Sunday Noon he was carried before Sir *William Thompson* in order to be examin'd; where he said;

That about the latter End of the Week in which Mr. *Darby* was Murder'd, as he was passing through *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields* about four in the Afternoon, he took up under the Wall of *Lincoln's-Inn Gardens* a white paper Parcel, in which were contained several things of great Value belonging to the Deceas'd; some of the Diamonds he acknowledged he sold to a Jeweller in *Pater Noster Row* for ten Guineas; the Watch he Pawn'd for nine Guineas to a Person at a Brasier's in *Bond-street*, and sold the Gold Chain and Swivels to a Person in *Lombard-street*: He absolutely denied all Knowledge of the Murder, and said at the Time it happened, he was at a Billiard Table in *Duke-street* by *St. James's*; when taken, there was found upon him two of Mr. *Darby's* Rings

Rings with the Stones taken out, wrap'd up in a Paper with his Seal, the Arms of which were taken out; and on these Circumstances he was committed to *Newgate*.

Soon after this the *Coroner* granted his *Warrant*, and an order being thereupon obtain'd from the *Commons*, Mr. *Darby's* Body was taken up, and his Head open'd by an eminent Surgeon, in the presence of several Persons, who found a large lacerated Wound on the Head of Mr. *Darby*, near the left Ear, the temporal Bone on that side being very much fractured, several pieces of which stuck in the Brain on the same side; he found likewise the temporal Bone on the other side, exactly opposite, broken, the pieces thereof were not removed from their places, but easily removed upon his attempting to take them away: He took out the Brain, and the Bullet drop'd upon the Pillow which lay upon the Ground under his Head; it appeared upon comparing the said Bullet taken out of the Head, with some other Bullets found in Custody of *Henry Fisher* at that time in *Newgate* on Suspicion of the Murder, that it seemed to have been cast in the same Mould, and when weighing it with one of these Bullets, it was very little lighter; and it fitted the Bore of one of the Pistols which was found in *Fisher's* Custody, even that Pistol which


which by some signs was look'd on to have been discharged, tho' afterwards loaded again.

This *Fisher* was the Son of a very eminent *Clothier* in the *West* of *England*, who had sent him to *London*, and put him out *Clerk* to an *Attorney*, and had done every thing in his Power which he was able, and which was reasonable for him to do; but he being extravagant, liv'd far beyond the Rate which was consistent with the supplies he receiv'd from his Father. So that when pressed by his necessities, he had often applyed to *Mr. Darby* for Relief; when in *Newgate* he affected a most unseasonable Gaiety, and unconcernedness in his Behaviour, altho' the Circumstances were so strong against him, as occasioned it to prevail as the general Opinion that he would be convicted. However he and the famous *Roger Johnson* took the advantage of the Workmen labouring on the Cells which were then Building; and by breaking a hole through a Place done up only with Lath and Plaister, they got down one of the Workmen's Ladders, and so made their Escape. *Johnson* was afterwards retaken and tried for breaking Prison, but alledging it was done by *Fisher*, he was acquitted, and this *Henry Fisher* the suppos'd Murderer of *Mr. Darby*, never heard of since.

The



*The LIFE of JOSHUA CORNWALL,
a Thief and House-Breaker.*

 **HOUGH** Vices are undoubtedly the chief Instruments that bring unhappy Persons to that ignominious Death, which the Law hath appointed for enormous Offences; yet it very often happens to young Persons especially; that folly rather than Wickedness brings them first into the Road of Ruin, in which, led on by delusive hopes, they continue to run untill a disastrous Fate overtake them, and put an end at once to their vicious Race, and to their Lives, of which the Criminal, whose Memoirs at present employ our Pen, is such an Example as I hope while it entertains his Relation, may also instruct my Readers to avoid his Errors.

This unfortunate Man was the Son of reputable and honest Parents, in the Town of *Briggs* in the County of *Lincoln*. Their Circumstances were such as enabled them to give him an Education, and the desire they

they had of doing every thing that was possible for their Son, inclined them not to be wanting in this particular. His Mother was fond of him to a Fault, and by her Indulgence being permitted to run up and down amongst young People of his own Age, riding cross the Country to Friends, and other Diversions of a like Nature, he lost all liking to things of a serious Nature, and without thinking how to procure the necessaries of Life, was altogether taken up in enjoying those pleasures to which he had the greatest Inclination; in the midst of this pleasant Scituation of Things, at least as it appeared to him at that Time, the prospect was darkned by the Death of his Mother; his Father retain'd for him a due paternal Affection, but had no notion of permitting him to go on in the Life he led, and therefore to break him of that, as well as to make him acquainted with an honest Method of getting his Living; his Father put him out Apprentice to a *Baker* in *Hull*; but as kindness seemed of all things the most Fatal to this unhappy Man, so the acquaintance and Friendship which his Master had for *Cornwall's* Family, became a new Means of leading him into Misfortunes; for he treating the young Man rather with a tenderness due to a Son, than that severity which is usually practis'd

practis'd towards Apprentices and Servants; gave him an opportunity of renewing his old course of Life, and instead of inclining him to behave in a manner, which might deserve such lenity, gave him on the contrary Occasion frequently to abuse it, by running from one Dancing-bout and Merry-making to another, without the least care of that Master's Business, who out of downright affection forbore to restrain his follies with that harshness which they deserved, and which any other Person would have used. At length having acquired so great a habit of Laziness, and so strong an aversion to Business, that he found it impossible for him to live longer in the Country, he e'en came up to *London*, that great Receptacle of those who are either unable or unwilling to live any where else: Here he got into the Service of several Persons of worth, as a Footman, and discharg'd his Duty so well, as indeed it was a kind of Life which of all others suited him best, that he obtained a tolerable Reputation, whereby he got into the Service of one Mr. *Fenwick*, a Gentleman of a fluent Fortune; here it was that through desire of abounding in Money, he either drew in others, or was drawn in himself, to commit that Crime which cost him his Life. It seems that in Mr. *Fenwick's*
Family

Family, there was a great deal of Plate used, which stood in a *Bouffet*; this tempted *Cornwall*, and it is highly likely, gave him the first Notion of attempting to rob the House, which Project, when he had once formed, he resolved to take in one *Rivers*, a debauched Companion of his, as a Partner in the designed Theft.

This *Rivers* was certainly easy enough prevailed on to join in the Commission of this Fact, and after several Meetings to consult upon proper Measures, *Rivers* at last proposed that their Scheme should be put in Execution, as soon as possible; and that he might the more perfectly conceive how it was to be managed, he went Home with *Cornwall*, and looked upon the House. Soon after this, they held their last Consultation, and *Cornwall* saying to *Rivers*, that he must bring some other Person to assist him, *Rivers* made Choice of one *Girft*, and coming with him at the appointed Hour, *Cornwall* in his Shirt opened the Door, and let them in. In the *Bouffet*, there stood a Candle lighted in a silver Candlestick, by which they were directed to the rest of the Plate, which as soon as they had taken out, they placed all together upon the Carpet, and fell next to rifling Mr. *Fenwick's Buroy*, and took out a great Quantity of Linnen, a Lady's

dy's laced Head, the Tea Equipage, and two silver Canisters; then making it up in a Bundle, it was carried to *River's* Lodgings in *Vinegar-Tard, Drury-Lane*. All this could not be performed with so little Noise, as not to disturb the Family. Mr. *Fenwick* himself heard the Noise, being awakened by his Wife, who had heard it for some Time; but it ceasing, they fell a Sleep again, until one of his Servants came up in the Morning, and told his Master that the House had been robbed, the Plate taken away, and a Window in the back Parlour left open, about which, as he could observe no Marks of Violence, he was led to suspect it was opened by some body in the Family; upon which *Cornwall* and a Maid in the House were immediately thought to have a Hand in it. However, as there was no Sort of Proof, Mr. *Fenwick* forbore seizing them at that Time, and contented himself with advertising his Plate; which Advertisement coming into the Hands of a *Pawnbroker*, to whom a Part of it had been pledged, he immediately gave Notice, that it was pawned to him by one *Rivers*: A Warrant being upon this obtained for the Searching of *River's* Lodging, a Note was there found, directed to *Thomas Rivers*,
Glover,

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Glover, in Guy's-Court, Vinegar-Tard, Drury-Lane, in which were these Words;

Dear Tom,

LET me see you at Seven o'Clock to morrow Morning, at the Postern-Spring, Tower-Hill, besure.

JOSHUA CORNWALL.

Upon this, Cornwall also was immediately taken up, and Girst readily made himself an Evidence. In a few Days after, Sessions coming on, Joshua Cornwall and Thomas Rivers, were indicted for burglariously breaking the House of Nicholas Fenwick, Esq; and taking thence divers Pieces of Plate, to the Value of eighty five Pounds nineteen Shillings, Holland Shirts, to the Value of twenty Pounds, and other Goods of the said Mr. Fenwick, on the 8th Day of September, 1730, which Indictment being fully proved, the Jury found Thomas Rivers guilty thereof; but being dubious, whether considering Joshua Cornwall, as a Servant within the House of Mr. Fenwick, could be properly convicted of burglariously Breaking into his said Master's House, they found their Verdict as to Him Special; which the Judges having

having considered, they were unanimously of Opinion, that the Crime was in its Nature a *Burglary*; whereupon, at the following Sessions at the *Old-Bailey*, the Criminal was brought to the Bar, and being acquainted with their Lordships Opinion, received Sentence of Death.

Under Conviction, he behaved himself with great Penitence, said he had not been guilty of many of those atrocious Crimes, commonly practised by such as come to that fatal End, whither his Folly had led him. At the Place of Execution, he with great Fervency justified the Character of a young Woman, who had lived Fellow-Servant with him at Mr. *Fenwick's*, when he committed the Robbery for which he died. He declared, as he was a dying Man, that she was not in the least privy to the Injury done her Master, and that he had no other than an Acquaintance with her, without either having, or attempting any criminal Conversation with her. Having done this Justice, he seemed to die with much Composure, in the 22d Year of his Age, on the 23d of *December*, 1730.

The End of the Second Volume.



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